

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	Prostate apoptosis response protein 4 (Pawr; Par-4); Ras; protein kinase B (PKB; Akt); protein kinase C- ζ (PKC- ζ); NF- κ B	Studies in cell culture, mice and human tissue suggest that targeting Par-4 or PKC- ζ could help treat NSCLC. Par-4 levels were lower in NSCLC tissues than they were in noncancerous control tissue samples. In a mouse model of pulmonary adenocarcinoma, Par-4 knockout mice expressing the <i>Ras</i> oncogene showed greater tumor burden than wild-type <i>Ras</i> -expressing mice. <i>In vitro</i> , Par-4 deficiency led to upregulation of NF- κ B and of PKC- ζ , which contributed to <i>Akt</i> oncogene activation. Ongoing studies are examining the effects of Par-4 deficiency in prostate cancer, and future studies will investigate whether other PKCs besides PKC- ζ mediate Par-4 activity.	Not patented	Joshi, J. <i>et al. EMBO J</i> ; published online July 24, 2008; doi:10.1038/emboj.2008.149 Contacts: Maria T. Díaz-Meco, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio e-mail: maria.diazmeco@uc.edu Contact: Jorge Moscat, same affiliation as above e-mail: jorge.moscat@uc.edu