

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Fatty acid synthase (FAS)	An X-ray crystallography study determined the structure of mammalian FAS, which could help guide development of inhibitors for treating cancer. FAS is overexpressed in many cancer cells, and levels of the enzyme are correlated with tumor malignancy. The crystal structure, resolved at 3.2 Å, revealed five catalytic domains and two nonenzymatic domains. The next step is to use the crystal structure to further understand the diverse product synthesis of FAS and develop inhibitors that could potentially treat cancer.	Patent application filed covering the crystal structure; licensing status not available	Maier, T. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online Sept. 4, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1161269 Contact: Nenad Ban, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland e-mail: ban@mol.biol.ethz.ch