

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	K-Ras (KRAS); NF-κB; tumor protein p53 (TP53; p53)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that inhibiting NF-κB signaling could help treat NSCLC patients carrying K-Ras and p53 mutations. p53-deficient mouse lung adenocarcinoma cells with an activating mutation in K-Ras were more sensitive to NF-κB inhibition than cells with functional p53. In mice with p53-deficient lung adenocarcinomas that also had an activating K-Ras mutation, chemically-induced inhibition of NF-κB signaling slowed tumor growth compared with that in noninduced controls. Next steps could include evaluating NF-κB inhibitors in other cancers with K-Ras and p53 mutations.</p> <p>At least four companies have compounds that inhibit NF-κB in Phase II or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1598 Published online Nov. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Meylan, E. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Oct. 21, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08462</p> <p>Contact: Tyler Jacks, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: tjacks@mit.edu</p>