

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	Hairy and enhancer of split1 (HES1); notch homolog 1 translocation-associated (Drosophila) (NOTCH1); tenascin-C (TNC)	<p>A study in human samples and in cell culture suggests that targeting the NOTCH pathway and TNC could be useful for treating pediatric ependymomas, or tumors in the lining of the CNS ventricular system. In 59 human ependymoma tissue samples, gain-of-function mutations occurred in regions that contain the genes for NOTCH1 and TNC, which have been linked to brain tumorigenesis. The tissue samples also showed greater mRNA expression of Notch1 and TNC than control cancer tissue samples. Next steps include evaluating the antitumor effect of <math>\gamma</math>-secretase inhibitors, which prevent NOTCH1 signaling, in preclinical ependymoma models.</p> <p>At least five companies have compounds in development targeting the Notch signaling pathway.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.525</b>  <b>Published online April 2, 2009</b></p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Puget, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Oncol.</i>; published online March 16, 2009; doi:10.1200/JCO.2007.15.4195</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Jacques Grill, Institute Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France  e-mail: <a href="mailto:grill@igr.fr">grill@igr.fr</a></p>