

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	11 β -Hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 2 (HSD11B2; 11 β HSD2); cyclooxygenase-2 (PTGS2; COX-2)	A study in human samples and mice suggests that inhibiting 11 β HSD2 could be useful for treating colorectal cancer. 11 β HSD2 mRNA and protein levels were higher in human colonic adenomas than they were in normal tissues. In mouse colon adenocarcinoma cells, small hairpin RNA knockdown of 11 β HSD2 significantly lowered tumor growth and COX-2 expression compared with what was seen using scrambled shRNA. Next steps include developing additional 11 β HSD2 inhibitors and finding the minimum concentrations needed to effectively inhibit the protein.	Provisional patent pending; available for licensing from the Vanderbilt University Office of Technology Transfer and Enterprise Development	Zhang, M.-Z. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online March 23, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI37398 Contact: Ming-Zhi Zhang, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: ming-zhi.zhang@vanderbilt.edu
		SciBX 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.528 Published online April 2, 2009		