This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Thymine DNA glycosylase (TDG)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that TDG expression could help predict cancer patients' response to 5-fluorouracil (5-FU). In a human cancer cell line, RNAi knockout of <i>TDG</i> correlated with lower cellular sensitivity to 5-FU and expression of <i>TDG</i> increased cellular sensitivity to 5-FU compared with what was seen in controls. In mouse embryonic fibroblasts or mouse embryonic stem cells, <i>Tdg</i> deficiency led to 5-FU resistance whereas <i>Tdg</i> expression led to 5-FU sensitivity compared with what was seen in wild-type controls. Next steps include validating the TDG-dependent 5-FU response in colorectal cancer.	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Kunz, C. <i>et al. PLoS Biol.</i> ; published online April 27, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000091 Contact: Primo Schar, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland e-mail: primo.schaer@unibas.ch
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