

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Metastasis-associated in colon cancer 1 (MACC1)	<p>Studies <i>in vitro</i> and in mice suggest that MACC1 could be a prognostic marker and a possible therapeutic target in colorectal cancer. Expression analysis of primary tumors and metastases from colon cancer patients showed that <i>MACC1</i> was upregulated compared with levels seen in normal tissue. <i>In vitro</i>, <i>MACC1</i> expression increased cell proliferation, invasion and hepatocyte growth factor (HGF)-induced migration of colon cancer cells. <i>MACC1</i> small interfering RNA treatment of the same cells blocked cell proliferation and migration. Transplantation of colon carcinoma cells expressing <i>MACC1</i> into mice promoted tumor growth and metastasis compared with what was seen in controls. Further studies are necessary to develop a <i>MACC1</i> diagnostic and to design therapeutic small hairpin RNA molecules.</p> <p>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.9 Published online Jan. 8, 2009</p>	Patent application filed in Europe, the U.S. and Japan; unavailable for licensing	<p>Stein, U. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Dec. 21, 2008; doi:10.1038/nm.1889</p> <p>Contact: Ulrike Stein, Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany e-mail: ustein@mdc-berlin.de</p>