

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Serine/threonine kinase 33 (STK33); ribosomal protein S6 kinase, polypeptide 1 (RPS6KB1; S6K1)	A study in cell culture suggests that STK33 could be antagonized to treat K-Ras-positive tumors. In a variety of K-Ras-positive tumor cell lines, RNAi-mediated knockdown of STK33 prevented cell growth. In wild-type K-Ras cells, knockdown did not affect growth. In K-Ras-positive cells, STK33 knockdown led to lower activity of apoptosis inhibitor RPS6KB1 than mock treatment. Next steps include identifying small molecule inhibitors of STK33 and testing their effect on K-Ras-positive tumor lines and in animal models of K-Ras-driven cancers.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Scholl, C. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online May 29, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.03.017 Contact: D. Gary Gilliland, Harvard University, Boston, Mass. e-mail: ggilliland@rics.bwh.harvard.edu Contact: William C. Hahn, same affiliation as above e-mail: william_hahn@dfci.harvard.edu
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