This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Syk tyrosine kinase (SYK); macrophage stimulating 1 receptor, c-met-related tyrosine kinase (MST1R; RON)	<p>A study in cell culture suggests that SYK and RON could be antagonized to treat tumors with activating K-Ras mutations. Microarray analysis of human tumor cell lines showed that SYK and RON are upregulated in tumors that require K-Ras gene hyperactivation for survival compared with K-Ras-independent tumors. Small hairpin RNA knockdown of SYK or RON inhibited the growth of the K-Ras-dependent cells compared with both K-Ras-independent cells and control cells. R406, a small molecule SYK inhibitor, produced lower growth rates in K-Ras-dependent tumor cells than in K-Ras-independent tumor cells. Next steps include testing the effects of SYK and RON inhibition or knockdown in animal models of K-Ras-driven tumors including pancreatic cancer. Tamatinib fosdium (R788), an oral formulation of R406 from Rigel Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase IIb trials to treat relapsed or refractory peripheral T cell lymphoma.</p> <p>SciBX 2(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.937 Published online June 11, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Singh, A. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online June 2, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.03.022</p> <p>Contact: Jeff Settleman, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: settleman@helix.mgh.harvard.edu</p>