

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	HMG-CoA reductase	<p>A study in mice and in human tissue suggests that statins could help treat cancer. In a mouse xenograft model of liver cancer, injection of cells expressing the catalytic domain of HMG-CoA reductase led to greater tumor growth than injection of cells expressing an empty vector. In a transcriptional analysis of tissue from breast cancer patients, high HMG-CoA reductase levels were associated with lower survival rates ($p=0.0029$). Next steps could include testing statins in other animal models of cancer.</p> <p>At least 11 companies have statins, which are HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, marketed or in clinical trials for various metabolic, cardiovascular or endocrine diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 3(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1007 Published online Aug. 26, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Clendening, J.W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 9, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0910258107</p> <p>Contact: James W. Clendening, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: jclenden@uhnres.utoronto.ca</p>