

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Polycystic kidney disease (PKD)	c-Met proto-oncogene (MET; HGFR)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting MET could help treat autosomal dominant PKD. In kidneys from a mouse model of autosomal dominant PKD, a small molecule MET inhibitor decreased cyst formation compared with vehicle control. In mouse embryos from the same disease model, a MET inhibitor decreased kidney cyst number and size compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include investigating whether other receptor tyrosine kinases contribute to cyst formation.</p> <p>Crizotinib, a dual inhibitor of MET receptor tyrosine kinase and anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) and their oncogenic variants from Pfizer Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).</p> <p>At least 16 additional companies have MET-targeting compounds in Phase II trials or earlier to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1160 Published online Sept. 30, 2010</p>	Patent pending; licensing status unavailable	<p>Qin, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 13, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI41531</p> <p>Contact: Jordan A. Kreidberg, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Mass. e-mail: Jordan.Kreidberg@childrens.harvard.edu</p>