

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colon cancer	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1); adenomatous polyposis coli (APC); K-ras	<p>Studies in mice suggest that mTOR inhibitors could help treat <i>APC</i>-mutant colon cancers. In a mouse model of invasive and metastatic <i>Apc</i>-mutant colon cancer, the mTOR inhibitor Rapamune rapamycin reduced tumor size by 80% compared with no treatment. Next steps could include clinical trials of Rapamune in patients with <i>APC</i>-mutant tumors.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc.'s Rapamune is marketed to prevent organ rejection in renal transplantation. At least nine companies have mTOR inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.146 Published online Feb. 4, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hung, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 28, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0908682107 Contact: Kenneth E. Hung, Tufts Medical Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: khung@tuftsmedicalcenter.org</p>