

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Liver cancer	NOTCH; $\gamma$ -secretase	<p>Patient tissue and mouse studies suggest NOTCH signaling could be used as a prognostic marker in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and agonizing NOTCH may help treat the disease. In tumor tissue from HCC patients, a NOTCH activation gene expression signature correlated with increased survival. In a mouse model of HCC, a <math>\gamma</math>-secretase inhibitor that blocked Notch signaling increased tumor formation compared with vehicle control. Next steps include additional studies to determine how NOTCH activation alters cancer proliferation.</p> <p>MK-0752, a <math>\gamma</math>-secretase inhibitor from Merck &amp; Co. Inc., is in a Phase I/IIa trial to treat pancreatic cancer and a Phase I study to treat breast cancer. R4733, a <math>\gamma</math>-secretase inhibitor from Roche, is in Phase I to treat solid tumors.</p> <p><b>SciBX 4(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1014</b>  <b>Published online Sept. 15, 2011</b></p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Viatour, P. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 29, 2011; doi:10.1084/jem.20110198</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Julien Sage, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:julsage@stanford.edu">julsage@stanford.edu</a></p>