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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2); viral polymerase	*In vitro*, primary tumor and mouse studies suggest that human cytomegalovirus (CMV) antivirals and/or COX-2 inhibitors could help treat medulloblastoma. More than 90% of primary medulloblastoma tumors expressed CMV proteins, which correlated with increased COX-2 expression. In mice bearing CMV-positive human medulloblastomas, compared with CMV-negative xenografts, valganciclovir and/or celecoxib decreased growth by up to 72%. Ongoing work includes further elucidation of CMV's role in brain tumor growth and progression. Roche markets the viral polymerase inhibitor Cytovene ganciclovir to treat CMV infection. Roche and Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corp. market Valcyte valganciclovir, a prodrug of ganciclovir, to treat CMV infection. Pfizer Inc. and Astellas Pharma Inc. market Celebrex celecoxib, an inhibitor of COX-2 and mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1) to treat pain, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), osteoarthritis and other autoimmune indications. Pfizer also has the compound in Phase II/III testing to treat skin cancer and Phase II testing to treat lung cancer. *SciBX* 4(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1108 Published online Oct. 13, 2011	Patent status undisclosed; available for licensing or partnering	Baryawno, N. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online Sept. 26, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI57147 **Contact:** Cecilia Söderberg-Nauclér, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: cecilia.naucler@ki.se **Contact:** John Inge Johnsen, same affiliation as above e-mail: John.Inge.Johnsen@ki.se