

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Pyruvate kinase M2 isozyme (PKM2); β -catenin (CTNNB1)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture suggests antagonizing interactions between PKM2 and CTNNB1 could help treat glioblastoma. In mice bearing a glioblastoma cell line with an activating <i>epidermal growth factor receptor</i> (<i>EGFR</i>) mutation, PKM2 or CTNNB1 depletion decreased tumor growth compared with normal PKM2 or CTNNB1 expression. Next steps include developing a therapeutic approach for disrupting the interaction.</p> <p>Agios Pharmaceuticals Inc. has a discovery-stage program targeting PKM2 in cancer.</p> <p>Dynamix Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has DNX-3000, a fructose bisphosphate mimic that activates PKM2, in preclinical development for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1287 Published online Dec. 1, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Yang, W. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Nov. 6, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10598</p> <p>Contact: Zhimin Lu, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas</p> <p>e-mail: zhiminlu@mdanderson.org</p>