

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Renal cancer	Leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2)	<p>Studies in human tissue and in cell culture suggest that LRRK2 antagonists could help treat renal carcinoma. In renal tumor biopsies, LRRK2 was overexpressed compared with expression in healthy tissue. In cultured renal tumor cells, using small hairpin RNA to knock down LRRK2 decreased activation of an oncogenic signaling pathway and slowed cell proliferation compared with a control vector. Next steps could include testing LRRK2 inhibitors in cell culture and animal models of renal cancer.</p> <p>Separate LRRK2 inhibitors from Zenobia Therapeutics Inc. and Vernalis Group plc are in preclinical development for Parkinson's disease (PD) in partnership with H. Lundbeck A/S. TauTaTis Inc. has TTT-3002, an LRRK2 inhibitor, in preclinical development for PD.</p> <p>SciBX 4(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.192 Published online Feb. 17, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Looyenga, B.D. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 10, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1012500108</p> <p>Contact: Jeffrey P. MacKeigan, Van Andel Institute, Grand Rapids, Mich. e-mail: jeff.mackeigan@vai.org</p>