

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	p21 protein (Cdc42 Rac)-activated kinase 1 (PAK1)	<p>Studies in patient samples and in mice suggest that inhibiting PAK1 could help treat squamous NSCLC. In primary NSCLC tissue samples, immunohistochemical staining identified high PAK1 expression in 64% of squamous carcinomas, whereas adjacent normal lung tissue expressed low levels of PAK1. In xenograft mice with squamous NSCLC tumors, small hairpin RNA-mediated depletion of PAK1 decreased tumor growth and proliferation compared with those seen using shRNA control vector. Next steps at Roche's Genentech Inc. unit include examining the role that factors downstream of PAK1 play in survival of squamous NSCLC cells.</p> <p>SciBX 4(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.481 Published online April 28, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Ong, C.C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 11, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1103350108</p> <p>Contact: Klaus P. Hoeflich, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: hoeflich.klaus@gene.com</p>