

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Colorectal cancer	BRAF; epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	<p>Two independent studies in mice suggest combining EGFR inhibitors with BRAF inhibitors could help treat BRAF-mutant colorectal cancers that are unresponsive to BRAF inhibitors. In mice with human mutant BRAF colorectal tumors, Zelboraf vemurafenib plus the EGFR inhibitors Tarceva erlotinib or Erbitux cetuximab decreased tumor growth compared with either drug alone. Next steps for both teams could include conducting clinical trials of the combination therapy in BRAF(V600E)-mutant colorectal cancer and identifying other BRAF-mutant cancers.</p> <p>Zelboraf from Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. and partner Roche is approved to treat metastatic melanoma and is in Phase I trials for thyroid cancer and colorectal cancer.</p> <p>Tarceva from Astellas Pharma Inc. and partners Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Roche is marketed to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>Erbitux from Eli Lilly and Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Merck KGaA is marketed to treat colorectal cancer and head and neck cancer, and is under FDA review for NSCLC.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.147</b> Published online Feb. 9, 2012</p>	Findings for both studies unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Prahallad, A. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Jan. 26, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature10868 <b>Contact:</b> René Bernards, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: <a href="mailto:r.bernards@nki.nl">r.bernards@nki.nl</a></p> <p>Corcoran, R.B. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online Jan. 16, 2012; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-11-0341 <b>Contact:</b> Jeffrey A. Engelman, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: <a href="mailto:jengelman@partners.org">jengelman@partners.org</a></p>