SciBX
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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colon cancer	MAP kinase kinase kinase 7 (MAP3K7; TAK1); K-Ras	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting TAK1 could help treat K-Ras-dependent colon cancers. In K-Ras-mutant colon cancer cell lines in which K-Ras depletion leads to apoptosis, TAK1 expression was greater than that in K-Ras-mutant cell lines insensitive to K-Ras depletion. In mouse xenograft models of K-Ras-dependent colon cancer, a small molecule TAK1 inhibitor decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle. Next steps could include testing TAK1 inhibitors in additional preclinical models of K-Ras-dependent colon cancers. *SciBX* 5(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.226 Published online March 1, 2012	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Singh, A. *et al. Cell*; published online Feb. 17, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2011.12.033 **Contact:** Daniel A. Haber, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: haber@helix.mgh.harvard.edu **Contact:** Jeff Settleman, same affiliation as above e-mail: settleman.jeffrey@gene.com