

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Mixed lineage kinase 4 (KIAA1804; MLK4); <i>K-Ras</i>	An <i>in vitro</i> and mouse study suggests inhibiting MLK4 could help treat a subset of colorectal cancers with mutant <i>K-Ras</i> . <i>In vitro</i> , mutant variants of MLK4 had greater kinase activity than the wild-type enzyme. In xenograft mouse models of colorectal cancer driven by mutant <i>K-Ras</i> , knockdown or knockout of <i>MLK4</i> decreased tumor formation compared with no knockdown or knockout. Next steps include developing small molecule inhibitors of MLK4 and testing them in cell-based and xenograft mouse models of <i>K-Ras</i> -mutant colorectal cancer.	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	Martini, M. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i> ; published online Jan. 14, 2013; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-12-3074 Contact: Alberto Bardelli, University of Torino, Torino, Italy e-mail: alberto.bardelli@unito.it
		SciBX 6(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.112 Published online Feb. 7, 2013		