This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase 1 (GOT1); malate dehydrogenase 1 (MDH1); NADP-dependent malic enzyme (ME1)	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest inhibiting cancer-specific glutamine metabolism could help treat *K-Ras*–mutant pancreatic cancers. In pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) cells, glutamine deprivation or small hairpin RNA against GOT1, MDH1 or ME1, which are enzymes involved in cancer-associated glutamine metabolism pathways driven by oncogenic *K-Ras*, led to decreased cell proliferation compared with no glutamine deprivation or control shRNA. In a mouse xenograft model for human PDAC, shRNA against glutamine pathway enzymes led to decreased tumor growth compared with a control shRNA. Next steps include identifying pharmacological inhibitors of GOT1, MDH1 or ME1.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Son, J. *et al. Nat. Med.*; published online March 27, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12040 **Contact:** Lewis C. Cantley, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: lec2014@med.cornell.edu **Contact:** Alec C. Kimmelman, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: alec_kimmelman@dfci.harvard.edu

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