

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colon cancer	Notch 3 (NOTCH3); Musashi RNA binding protein 1 (MSI1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting NOTCH3 could help treat colon cancer. In colon cancer cell lines and metastatic colorectal cancer samples, NOTCH3 stimulation induced expression of MSI1 to reinforce intracellular Notch signaling, whereas the anti-NOTCH2 and NOTCH3 antibody OMP-59R5 prevented the MSI1 increase. In mice with NOTCH3-expressing colon cancer xenografts, the anti-NOTCH antibody decreased MSI1 levels and tumor burden compared with a control antibody. Next steps include clinical testing of a NOTCH3 antibody to treat colon cancer.</p> <p>OncoMed Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s OMP-59R5 is in Phase I/II testing for pancreatic cancer and small cell lung cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 7(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.312 Published online March 20, 2014</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Pasto, A. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Feb. 13, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-2022 Contact: Stefano Indraccolo, Veneto Institute of Oncology, Padova, Italy e-mail: stefano.indraccolo@unipd.it</p>