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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Platelet derived growth factor receptor B (PDGFRB; PDGFR1; CD140B)	Studies in mice and human samples suggest inhibiting PDGFRB could help prevent pancreatic cancer metastasis. In mice injected with metastasis-prone pancreatic cancer cells, shRNA knockdown or pharmacological inhibition of Pdgfrb with crenolanib or Gleevec imatinib decreased metastatic spread compared with no alteration or inhibition. In human pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma samples, elevated levels PDGFRB correlated with poor disease-free survival and decreased time to relapse. Next steps could include evaluating pharmacological PDGFRB inhibitors in additional pancreatic cancer models. Novartis AG markets Gleevec, a BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitor, to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs). Arog Pharmaceuticals LLC's crenolanib is in Phase II testing to treat acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) and Phase I to treat brain cancer.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Weissmueller, S. *et al. Cell*; published online April 10, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.01.066 **Contact:** Scott W. Lowe, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: lowes@mskcc.org

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