

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Pre-mRNA processing factor 6 (PRPF6)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest inhibiting PRPF6 signaling could help treat colon cancer. In 10 of 11 human colon cancer cell lines with high PRPF6 protein levels, <i>PRPF6</i>-targeting siRNA decreased growth compared with nontargeting siRNA. In a mouse xenograft model of established colon cancers with high PRPF6 levels, <i>PRPF6</i>-targeting siRNA induced tumor shrinkage and decreased tumor growth compared with nontargeted shRNA. Transcriptome analysis showed that inhibiting PRPF6 signaling alters alternative splicing of multiple genes, including an oncogenic <i>sterile α-motif and leucine zipper containing kinase AZK (ZAK)</i> kinase isoform. Researchers did not disclose next steps, which could include screening for pharmacological inhibitors of PRPF6.</p> <p>SciBX 7(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.674 Published online June 12, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Adler, A.S. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i>; published online May 1, 2014; doi:10.1101/gad.237206.113 Contact: Ron Firestein, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: ronf@gene.com</p>