

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Hematologic malignancies	Serine/threonine kinase 4 (STK4); yes-associated protein 1 (YAP1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting STK4 could help treat hematological malignancies, which often have downregulated expression of the proapoptotic protein YAP1. In multiple myeloma (MM) cells, lentiviral delivery of <i>YAP1</i> restored YAP1-mediated apoptotic pathways and induced cancer cell death. In mice injected with human MM cells, shRNA knockdown of <i>STK4</i> restored YAP1 expression and prevented tumor growth, whereas scrambled shRNA resulted in the development of tumors. Next steps include designing STK4 inhibitors.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Cottini, F. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online May 11, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3562 Contact: Giovanni Tonon, Scientific Institute for Hospitalization and Care, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy e-mail: tonon.giovanni@hsr.it Contact: Kenneth C. Anderson, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: kenneth_anderson@dfci.harvard.edu
		SciBX 7(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.676 Published online June 12, 2014		