

TARGETING TPL2 IN RAS-MUTATED CANCERS

Dodhiawala, Paarth, Lim, Kian-Huat

Richards, Jennifer

T-019493

Technology Description

Researchers in Kian-Huat Lim's lab at Washington University have developed a therapeutic strategy to target TPL2 in RASmutated cancers, which should work synergistically with chemotherapy and radiation. As TPL2 (MAP3K8) is necessary for upstream activation of both MAPK and NF-KB signaling in RAS-mutated cancer cells, it provides a more appealing target for inhibitors than MEK/ERK or NF-KB alone.

In RAS-mutated cancers, inhibiting RAS-induced MAPK signaling is a common therapeutic strategy. However, tumor cells evade those therapeutics by activating NF-KB signaling instead, so targeting a protein upstream of both pathways represents a more effective strategy. The researchers have also identified several additional cancer types where mutated TPL2 is constitutively active.



Stage of Research

The researchers have identified and validated TPL2 as a therapeutic target for pancreatic cancer *in vitro* using a commercially-available TPL2 inhibitor. Ongoing research involves lead generation and *in vivo* testing.



Publications

• Dodhiawala PB, Khurana N, Zhang D, Cheng Y, ... Lin K-H. (2020). <u>TPL2 enforces RAS-induced inflammatory signaling</u> and is activated by point mutations. *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, 130(9):4771-4790.

Applications

• Therapeutic in RAS-mediated cancers

Key Advantages

• Central to both MAPK and NF-κB signaling pathways

Patents: Pending

Related Web Links: Lim Profile & Lab