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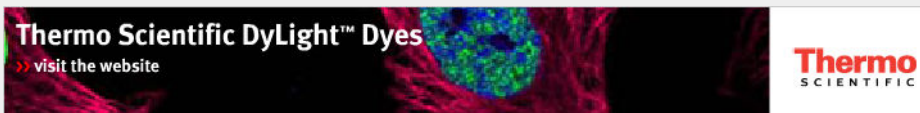
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Preview

BMPing Off Glioma Stem Cells

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Summary

Brain tumor stem cells (BTSC) bear some similarities to neural stem cells (NSC). Bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs) have a proproliferative effect on early embryonic NSC, and a prodifferentiative effect on postnatal NSC. In this issue of *Cancer Cell*, Lee et al. demonstrate that BMPs have differing effects on different BTSC lines, either promoting or inhibiting an astrocytic-like differentiation program. This latter effect is the result of epigenetic silencing of the *BMP receptor 1B* (*BMPRI1B*). These findings document the importance of the BMP signaling system in BTSC as well as that of taking heterogeneity into account when studying BTSC as potential targets for therapy.

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