This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	BCL2-interacting killer (apoptosis inducing) (BIK)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that upregulating BIK could be useful for treating cancer. In human airway epithelial cells, loss of <i>BIK</i> suppressed interferon-γ (IFN-γ)-induced death of proliferating cells. Murine airway epithelial cells lacking <i>Bik</i> were unable to suppress nuclear localization of activated mitogen-activated protein kinase 3 (Mapk3) and Mapk1 kinases, which are required for Ifn-γ-induced cell death. Next steps include identifying the transcriptional factors that are responsible for upregulating expression of BIK.</p> <p>SciBX 1(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1016 Published online Nov. 20, 2008</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Mebratu, Y. <i>et al. J. Cell Biol.</i>; published online Nov. 3, 2008; doi:10.1083/jcb.200801186</p> <p>Contact: Yohannes Tesfaigzi, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Albuquerque, N.M. e-mail: ytesfaig@lrri.org</p>