This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Glioma; Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM)	Wingless-type MMTV integration site family, member 7A (WNT7A); WNT7B	<p>Studies in mice showed that WNT signaling could be targeted to block angiogenesis and glucose uptake in brain tumors. Embryonic mice with a double knockout of the Wnt homologs <i>Wnt7a</i> and <i>Wnt7b</i> had severe CNS-specific hemorrhage and disorganized neural tissue, leading to death at day 13. Compared with wild-type embryonic controls, the disorganized neurovascular tissue of the double knockouts also had lower levels of solute carrier family 2 (facilitated glucose transporter), member 1 (Slc2a1; Glut-1), which transports glucose across the blood-brain barrier. Researchers did not disclose next steps, but these could include testing whether blocking Wnt signaling restricts the growth of brain tumors in adult animal models. Kiadis Pharma B.V. and Avalon Pharmaceuticals Inc. have preclinical compounds targeting the Wnt pathway to treat colorectal cancer and undisclosed cancers, respectively.</p> <p>SciBX 1(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1070 Published online Dec. 11, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Stenman, J. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Nov. 20, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1164594</p> <p>Contact: Andrew P. McMahon, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: mcmahon@mcb.harvard.edu</p>