This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase kinase 3 (MAP4K3)	Studies in cell culture suggest that enhancing MAP4K3 activity could help treat cancer. In healthy cells, small interfering RNA knockdown of MAP4K3 increased cellular proliferation and resistance to DNA damage-mediated cell death compared with a control treatment using scrambled siRNA ($p < 0.001$). In human pancreatic cancer tumor samples, MAP4K3 expression was significantly lower than in normal tissue ($p < 0.001$). Next steps include studying the regulation of cell proliferation by MAP4K3 and developing <i>in vivo</i> models to confirm the tumor suppressor role of the kinase.	Work unpatented; available for licensing from Medical Research Council Technology	Lam, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 29, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900608106 Contact: L. Miguel Martins, Medical Research Council Toxicology Unit, Leicester, U.K. e-mail: LMM24@le.ac.uk
<i>SciBX</i> 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1070 Published online July 16, 2009				