This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Protein phosphatase 2 (PPP2CA; PPP2; PP2A)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting PP2A could help enhance the efficacy of cancer therapeutics. In mice with glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) xenografts, a PP2A inhibitor plus the chemotherapeutic temozolomide caused complete regression without recurrence in 50% of animals over a period of 28 weeks, whereas either drug alone caused only short-term growth inhibition or regression. Also in the GBM model, PP2A inhibition plus doxorubicin caused tumor regression, whereas doxorubicin alone only slowed growth. Next steps include large animal toxicology and pharmacokinetic studies.</p> <p>Schering-Plough Corp. markets Temodar temozolomide to treat brain cancer.</p> <p>At least four companies market doxorubicin to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1071 Published online July 16, 2009</p>	NIH and Lixte Biotechnology Holdings Inc. have jointly filed patent applications covering work in paper; exclusively licensed by Lixte; available for licensing	<p>Lu, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 29, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0905930106</p> <p>Contact: Zhengping Zhuang, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: zhuangp@ninds.nih.gov</p> <p>Contact: Russell Lonser, same affiliation as above e-mail: lonser@ninds.nih.gov</p>