This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)	Phospholipase C _{β1} (PLCB1)	<p>Studies in human samples suggest that PLCB1 methylation levels could help predict responsiveness to Vidaza azacitidine in high-risk MDS patients. In a cohort of 24 patients, Vidaza responders had PLCB1 methylation levels that were about 67% of baseline methylation levels ($p < 0.001$). In nonresponders, levels were about 40% of baseline ($p < 0.001$). Next steps include validating the marker in a larger patient cohort.</p> <p>Vidaza, a hypomethylating agent from Celgene Corp., is marketed to treat MDS.</p> <p>SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1308 Published online Sept. 3, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Follo, M.Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 24, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0907109106</p> <p>Contact: Lucio Cocco, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy e-mail: lucio.cocco@unibo.it</p>