This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Guanine nucleotide binding protein-like 3 (GNL3; nucleostemin)	<p>Imaging studies in mice suggest that targeting tumors with high levels of nucleostemin could help treat glioma. All mice receiving as few as 10 cells with high nucleostemin levels developed brain tumors, whereas mice receiving up to 1,000 cells with low nucleostemin levels failed to develop brain tumors. Mice receiving cells with low nucleostemin expression also had lower rates of tumor development and slower progression than mice receiving cells with high nucleostemin expression. Next steps include evaluating the utility of nucleostemin-based imaging to identify those cell populations in other tumor types.</p> <p>SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1370 Published online Sept. 17, 2009</p>	Patent application cofiled by Keio University and Kyowa Hakko Kirin Co. Ltd. covering nucleostemin as a stem cell-specific promoter; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Tamase, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 7, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0905016106</p> <p>Contact: Atsushi Hirao, Kanazawa University, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan e-mail: ahirao@kenroku.kanazawau.ac.jp</p>