This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Tankyrase TRF1-interacting ankyrin-related ADP-ribose polymerase (TNKS1); TNKS2; β -catenin	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a small molecule inhibitor of TNKS1 and TNKS2 could help treat cancer. In a chemical genetic screen to identify inhibitors of the Wnt signaling pathway, the small molecule XAV939 inhibited TNKS1 and TNKS2. In culture, the inhibitor prevented growth of a colorectal cancer cell line. Novartis AG said next steps include further optimization of its inhibitor. Clinical Data Inc.'s AVN316, a small molecule that decreases protein levels of the Wnt signaling pathway component β -catenin, is in preclinical testing to treat cancer. SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1399 Published online Sept. 24, 2009	Patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	Huang, S. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Sept. 17, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08356 Contact: Feng Cong, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: feng.cong@novartis.com