This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Tumor protein p53 (TP53; p53)	<p>A study in mice suggests that p53 expression could help predict sensitivity of medulloblastomas to heat shock protein inhibitors. In mice with p53-expressing medulloblastomas, an Hsp90 inhibitor significantly reduced tumor growth compared with vehicle ($p < 0.05$). In contrast, the same Hsp90 inhibitor failed to reduce tumor growth in mice with p53-deficient medulloblastomas. Next steps include assessing the p53-dependence of various Hsp90 inhibitors in medulloblastoma.</p> <p>Tanespimycin (17-(allylamino)-17-demethoxygeldanamycin (17-AAG)), an Hsp90 inhibitor from the Kosan Biosciences Inc. unit of Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase III testing to treat multiple myeloma (MM).</p> <p>SciBX 2(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1432 Published online Oct. 1, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Ayrault, O. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 21, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0902880106</p> <p>Contact: Helen M. Beere, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: helen.beere@stjude.org</p>