This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Mdm2 p53 binding protein homolog (MDM2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that antagonizing MDM2 could help treat chemotherapy-resistant neuroblastoma. In several cancers, MDM2 is known to inhibit the tumor suppressor p53. In drug resistant neuroblastoma cells, the MDM2 antagonist Nutlin-3 increased p53 signaling and induced apoptosis. In mice with resistant neuroblastoma tumors, oral Nutlin-3 treatment inhibited primary tumor growth and reduced metastatic disease compared with no treatment. Next steps include testing Roche's Nutlin-3 in clinical trials to treat undisclosed cancer indications.</p> <p>Johnson & Johnson's JNJ-26854165, an MDM2 inhibitor, is in Phase I testing for solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 2(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1654 Published online Nov. 19, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Maerken, T. <i>et al. J. Natl. Cancer Inst.</i>; published online Nov. 11, 2009; doi:10.1093/jnci/djp355</p> <p>Contact: Tom Van Maerken, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium e-mail: tom.vanmaerken@ugent.be</p>