This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Renal cell carcinoma (RCC); clear cell RCC	Speckle-type POZ protein (SPOP); c-jun N-terminal kinase (MAPK8; JNK)	<p>Studies in human cell culture and in tissue samples suggest that SPOP is a biomarker and a potential target for treating clear cell RCC. In human embryonic kidney cells, overexpression of SPOP increased JNK signaling pathway activity compared with that seen in controls. In human tissue samples, SPOP was highly expressed in 77% of human RCC specimens but not in normal kidney tissue or other organs. SPOP was also highly expressed in 99% of clear cell RCC samples and in 97% of RCC metastases. Ongoing work includes identifying SPOP's substrate and determining whether it will be a viable target for RCC.</p> <p>Eight companies have compounds marketed or approved to treat RCC.</p> <p>At least 11 companies have therapies in Phase III testing to treat RCC.</p> <p>At least 30 companies have therapies in preclinical to early-stage clinical testing to treat RCC.</p> <p>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.400 Published online March 12, 2009</p>	Patented; licensed to LifeX Pharmaceuticals Inc.	<p>Liu, J. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Feb. 27, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1157669</p> <p>Contact: Kevin P. White, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: kpwhite@uchicago.edu</p>