This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Ras	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice identified an amide derivative of farnesylthiosalicylic acid (FTS) that inhibits Ras and may be useful for treating cancer. In human glioblastoma and pancreatic carcinoma cell lines, the FTS derivative FTS-A inhibited cell growth and showed selectivity toward active guanosine triphosphate-bound Ras comparable to that of the parent FTS compound salirasib. In nude mice with brain or pancreas tumors, 100 mg/kg of oral FTS-A twice-daily dose lowered tumor growth rates compared with those seen in vehicle-treated controls. There were no toxic side effects. Next steps include evaluating FTS amide derivatives in additional preclinical cancer models. Salirasib, a Ras antagonist from Champions Biotechnology Inc. and Concordia Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.47 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	<p>FTS and derivatives are patented for use in cancer, proliferative diseases and autoimmune diseases, including type 1 diabetes and restenosis; licensed to Concordia Pharmaceuticals</p>	<p>Goldberg, L. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Dec. 16, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm801165r Contact: Yoel Kloog, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel e-mail: kloog@post.tau.ac.il</p>