This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Lung cancer	Protein kinase B (PKB; Akt)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that phenanthrene-based tylophorine (PBT) analogs could be developed into cancer therapeutics. A 9-substituted 2,3-methylenedioxy-6 methoxy-PBT (PBT-1) compound was cytotoxic and induced apoptosis in lung cancer cell lines but did not induce apoptosis in a normal bronchial epithelial cell line. Next steps include additional modifications to the most active compounds to develop clinical candidates.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Lin, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 13, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801344j Contact: Pan-Chyr Yang, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: pcyang@ntu.edu.tw
SciBX 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.486 Published online March 26, 2009				