This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	<i>Guanine nucleotide binding protein, q polypeptide (GNAQ; Gαq)</i>	<p>Human genetic analysis and <i>in vivo</i> mouse studies suggest that targeting GNAQ may help treat melanoma. In human melanocytic neoplasm samples, 46% of uveal melanomas and up to 83% of blue naevi had mutations in GNAQ. Nude mice transfected with a mutated <i>Gnaq</i> developed heavily pigmented tumors at the injection site, whereas transfection with wild-type <i>Gnaq</i> or a control vector did not affect the mice. Next steps include studying the mechanism by which GNAQ mutations contribute to melanoma and other melanocytic neoplasms.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.50 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	<p>Patent cooperation treaty patent pending covering methods to detect GNAQ mutations in melanoma and treatment of the disease by modulating the activity of the mutated GNAQ gene (WO/2008/098208); available for licensing in diagnostics and some therapeutic areas from the University of California, San Francisco Office of Technology Licensing</p> <p>Contact: Karin Immergluck, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: Karin.Immergluck@ucsf.edu</p>	<p>Van Raamsdonk, C.D. <i>et al.</i> <i>Nature</i>; published online Dec. 11, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07586</p> <p>Contact: Boris Bastian, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: bastian@cc.ucsf.edu</p>