This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1); protein kinase B (PKB; Akt); tribbles homolog 3 (TRIB3, TRB3)	<p>A study in patient samples and in mice suggests that tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) could help treat glioma. In a human glioma xenograft mouse model, THC increased autophagic cell death compared with that seen using vehicle. In tumor samples isolated from two patients, levels of autophagy following THC treatment were higher than those existing prior to treatment. Cell-culture studies showed that THC promoted autophagy via TRB3-dependent inhibition of Akt/mTOR complex 1 signaling. Next steps include evaluating THC and other cannabinoid-based agents in a clinical trial.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.569 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Patented for treatment of brain tumors; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Salazar, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 1, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI37948</p> <p>Contact: Guillermo Velasco, Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain e-mail: gvd@bbm1.ucm.es</p>