This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Not applicable	<p>Studies <i>in vivo</i> suggest that imaging melanoma using dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI, $T_{1\rho}$-MRI or low-temperature nicotinamide dinucleotide/flavoprotein surface fluorescence imaging (redox scanning) could help predict the cancer's metastatic potential. In different mouse models of melanoma, dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI of a highly metastatic melanoma showed lower blood transfer rates in its core, a characteristic of metastatic tumors, than that seen in a less metastatic tumor. Redox scanning of a panel of five tumors representing five different levels of aggressiveness showed that scaling tumors based on their redox potential was predictive of metastatic potential. Next steps could include testing these methods with xenograft models of other metastatic cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.655 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Li, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 6, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901807106</p> <p>Contact: Britton Chance, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: chance@mail.med.upenn.edu</p>