This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Prostate cancer	Phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K; PIK3CG)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that blocking PI3K activity may be useful for preventing prostate cancer relapse. In two prostate cancer cell lines, the PI3K inhibitors LY294002 or NVP-BEZ235 decreased the percentage of prostate cancer progenitor CD133⁺/CD44⁺ cells compared with that seen in buffer-treated controls. Next steps include evaluating PI3K inhibitors in primary prostate xenograft tumor models.</p> <p>NVP-BEZ235, a dual PI3K and mTOR inhibitor from Novartis AG, is in Phase I testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>The developmental status of LY294002 was undisclosed.</p> <p>At least six other companies have PI3K in Phase I testing or earlier to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.92 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Dubrovskaya, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 22, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810956106</p> <p>Contact: Venkateshwar A. Reddy, Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: vreddy@gnf.org</p> <p>Contact: Peter G. Schultz, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: schultz@scripps.edu</p>