This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Medulloblastoma	Smoothened (SMO)	<p>SAR and mouse studies suggest that oral 1-amino-benzylphthalazine inhibitors of SMO could be used to treat medulloblastoma. In murine cell culture, a screen of 1-amino-benzylphthalazine derivatives identified compounds with high IC₅₀ for SMO. In a mouse model of medulloblastoma, the best compounds were orally bioavailable and triggered a reduction in tumor volume compared with mock treatment. Next steps include further optimization to select a lead compound for Phase I cancer trials. GDC-0449, a SMO antagonist from Curis Inc. and Roche's Genentech Inc. unit, is in Phase II trials for advanced basal cell carcinoma (BCC). BMS-833923 (XL139), a SMO antagonist from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Exelixis Inc., is in Phase I trials to treat advanced solid tumors. Fate Therapeutics Inc. and Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc. have compounds targeting the sonic hedgehog (SHH) pathway in preclinical development for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.938 Published online June 11, 2009</p>	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Miller-Moslin, K. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 26, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900309j Contact: Karen Miller-Moslin, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: karen.miller@novartis.com</p>