This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Liver cancer	Serine/threonine kinase 4 (STK4; MST1); STK3 (MST2); salvador homolog 1 (SAV1)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that increasing MST1, MST2 and SAV1 signaling could help treat liver cancer. In two separately published studies, mice with liver-specific deletion of <i>Mst1</i> and <i>Mst2</i> showed greater cell division and tumor incidence in the liver than controls that expressed <i>Mst1</i> and <i>Mst2</i>. One of the studies also showed that liver-specific <i>Sav1</i> deletion led to greater tumor incidence than was seen in controls. Next steps could include identifying compounds that increase MST1 and MST2 or SAV1 expression.</p> <p>SciBX 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.115 Published online Jan. 28, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Lu, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 28, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911427107 Contact: Randy L. Johnson, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: rljohnso@mdanderson.org</p> <p>Song, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 4, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911409107 Contact: Yingzi Yang, National Human Genome Research Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: yingzi@mail.nih.gov</p>