This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-triphosphate (PIP3); phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K); 3-phosphoinositide dependent protein kinase-1 (PDK1); protein kinase B (PKB; Akt)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified PIP3 inhibitors that could help treat cancer. In cancer cell lines, the inhibitors decreased PIP3 activation of the PI3K/PDK1/Akt signaling pathway and increased apoptosis compared with inactive control compounds. In a mouse model of metastatic breast cancer, micelle-encapsulated and nonencapsulated formulations of the lead compound decreased tumor growth by 95% and 58%, respectively, compared with vehicle control. Ongoing work includes optimizing and testing the lead compound in animal models of other cancers.	Patented; available for licensing	Miao, B. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 1, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1004522107 Contact: Alexei Degterev, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: alexei.degterev@tufts.edu
		SciBX 3(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1322 Published online Nov. 11, 2010		