This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Neuroendocrine tumors	Neurotrophin 3 (NTF3); neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 3 (NTRK3; TrkC)	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that inhibiting NTF3-TrkC signaling could help treat neuroblastoma. In human neuroblastoma cell lines and NTF3-expressing primary tumor samples, small interfering RNA inhibition of NTF3 or antibody blockade of its receptor, TrkC, induced more apoptosis than control siRNA treatment or no antibody treatment. In both chick embryos and mice grafted with neuroblastoma cells, Ntf3 siRNA reduced tumor growth compared with control siRNA. In the chick embryo model, an anti-TrkC antibody reduced tumor growth and prevented lung metastases compared with control antibody. Ongoing work includes designing and testing antibody, protein and small molecule inhibitors of the NTF3-TrkC interaction.	Patented; licensed to Netris Pharma	Bouzas-Rodriguez, J. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Feb. 15, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI41013 Contact: Patrick Mehlen, University of Lyon, Lyon, France e-mail: mehlen@lyon.fnclcc.fr
<i>SciBX</i> 3(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.276 Published online March 4, 2010				