This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Lung cancer	Phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K)	<p>Studies in patients suggest that determining PI3K levels could improve early prediction of a smoker's risk of lung cancer. Epithelial cells from the bronchial airway of smokers with lung cancer and lung dysplastic lesions had greater genetic expression and kinase activity of PI3K than cells from healthy smokers. In the bronchial airway cells from smokers treated with the chemoprotective agent <i>myo</i>-inositol to reduce dysplasia, PI3K levels were reduced compared with those in untreated patients. Next steps include an ongoing trial in patients undergoing bronchoscopy by Allegro Diagnostics Inc.</p> <p>At least nine companies have PI3K inhibitors in clinical and preclinical development to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.464 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Findings patented; Allegro Diagnostics has licensed the IP from Boston University; unavailable for licensing	<p>Gustafson, A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online April 7, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000251</p> <p>Contact: Avrum Spira, Boston University Medical Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: aspira@bu.edu</p> <p>Contact: Andrea H. Bild, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah e-mail: andreab@genetics.utah.edu</p>