This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Solid tumors	Parkin (PARK2)	<p>A study in tumor biopsies and in cell culture suggests that agonizing PARK2 could be useful for treating colorectal and brain cancers. In a genetic study of human tumor samples, 24% of glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) and colorectal cancer samples had chromosomal copy number reductions of the <i>PARK2</i> gene compared with 0% of healthy control samples. In cultured tumor cells lacking PARK2, transgenic expression of PARK2 reduced growth rates compared with those in mock-transfected controls. Next steps include developing an animal model for PARK2 deficiency in cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.49 Published online Jan. 14, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Veeriah, S. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Nov. 29, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.491</p> <p>Contact: Timothy Chan, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: chant@mskcc.org</p>