This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Polo-like kinase 1 (PLK1; STPK13)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a PLK1 inhibitor that could help treat cancer. High throughput screening and lead optimization identified a 4,5-dihydro-1<i>H</i>-pyrazolo[4,3-<i>h</i>]quinazoline derivative that inhibited PLK1. In a mouse xenograft model, the inhibitor prevented colon cancer tumor growth by 82% compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include testing the compound in additional animal models.</p> <p>At least five companies have PLK1 inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.520 Published online April 29, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Beria, I. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 16, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm901713n</p> <p>Contact: Italo Beria, Nerviano Medical Sciences s.r.l., Nerviano, Italy e-mail: italo.beria@nervianoms.com</p>