This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Activating transcription factor 5 (ATF5); cAMP responsive element binding protein 3-like 2 (CREB3L2)	<p>Studies <i>in vitro</i> and in mice suggest that inhibiting CREB3L2 could help treat glioblastoma. CREB3L2 is a regulator of ATF5, a transcription factor that is highly expressed in multiple types of brain tumors. In wild-type mouse glioma cells, as compared with cells overexpressing ATF5, small hairpin RNA-mediated knockdown of <i>Creb3l2</i> resulted in apoptosis. In human glioma stem cells, treatment with Nexavar sorafenib inhibited CREB3L2 expression compared with no treatment. In mice injected with glioma stem cells, Nexavar reduced tumor incidence and volumes compared with vehicle. Next steps could include evaluating Nexavar in combination with other anticancer compounds in models of ATF5-upregulated cancer.</p> <p>Nexavar, a multikinase inhibitor from Onyx Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Bayer AG, is marketed to treat renal and liver cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.668 Published online June 3, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Sheng, Z. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online May 23, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2158</p> <p>Contact: Michael R. Green, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: michael.green@umassmed.edu</p>