This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Serine/threonine kinase 33 (STK33)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting STK33 may not help treat cancer. Previous work had suggested that small hairpin RNA knockdown of STK33 lowered growth of tumor cell lines driven by activating mutations in <i>K-Ras</i>. However, a team at Amgen Inc. found no effect from STK33 knockdown in 27 <i>K-Ras</i> wild-type and mutated tumor lines. In addition, small molecule inhibitors of STK33 did not decrease growth in <i>K-Ras</i> mutant tumors. Next steps include identifying other proteins that could be targeted to prevent growth of <i>K-Ras</i> mutant tumors. Amgen has discontinued development of its STK33 program.</p> <p>SciBX 4(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1038 Published online Sept. 22, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Babij, C. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online July 8, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-0778 Contact: Isabelle Dussault, Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, Calif. e-mail: idussaul@amgen.com</p>