This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Multiple myeloma (MM)	Checkpoint kinase 1 (Chk1); MEK1; MEK2	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest combined inhibition of Chk1 and MEK1/2 could help treat MM. In MM cells in the quiescent G₀/G₁ cell cycle phase, which is difficult to target with standard chemotherapy, Chk1 and MEK1/2 inhibition yielded greater apoptosis than did chemotherapy. Next steps include testing Chk1 and MEK1/2 inhibition in the clinic.</p> <p>At least five companies have Chk1 inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancers. At least nine companies have MEK1 or MEK2 inhibitors in preclinical and clinical testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1065 Published online Sept. 29, 2011</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Pei, X.-Y <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Sept. 12, 2011; doi:10.1182/blood-2011-02-339432 Contact: Steven Grant, Virginia Commonwealth University and the Massey Cancer Center, Richmond, Va. e-mail: stgrant@vcu.edu</p>