This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	MEK; HER2 (EGFR2; ERBB2; neu); PTEN (MMAC1; TEP1)	<p>Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest that MEK inhibitors could help treat <i>PTEN</i>-mutant, <i>HER2</i>-positive prostate cancer. In a mouse model of prostate cancer driven by <i>PTEN</i> deletion and <i>HER2</i> expression, a MEK inhibitor reduced proliferation and increased senescence compared with vehicle. Next steps include planning a clinical trial to look at the role of MEK inhibition in a subset of men with prostate cancer.</p> <p>At least seven companies have small molecule MEK inhibitors in Phase I to Phase III trials for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1066 Published online Sept. 29, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Ahmad, I. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 19, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1101263108</p> <p>Contact: Owen Sansom, Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: o.sansom@beatson.gla.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact: Hing Leung, same affiliation as above e-mail: h.leung@beatson.gla.ac.uk</p>