This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Pim-1 (PIM1); B cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest combining PIM1 and BCL2 inhibitors could help treat prostate cancer. In cultured human prostate cancer cells, the BCL2 inhibitor ABT-737 plus the PIM1 inhibitor SMI-4a increased cell death compared with either compound alone. In mice with human prostate tumors, the combination suppressed tumor growth compared with either treatment alone. Next steps include studies of PIM1's role in cancer-associated pathways. ABT-737 is a research reagent from Abbott Laboratories. At least five companies have BCL2 antagonists in clinical testing for cancer. Selvita S.A.'s PIM1 inhibitor, SEL24, is in preclinical development to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1324 Published online Dec. 8, 2011</p>	<p>Patent application filed for the PIM1 inhibitor SMI-4a by Vortex Biotechnology Corp.; available for licensing or partnering Contact: Charles Smith, Vortex Biotechnology Corp., Charleston, S.C. e-mail: SmithCHD@musc.edu</p>	<p>Song, J.H. & Kraft, A.S. <i>Cancer Res.</i>; published online Nov. 11, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-3240 Contact: Andrew S. Kraft, Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C. e-mail: kraft@musc.edu</p>