This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	BRAF; Ras	<p>Patient and cell culture studies suggest targeting truncated BRAF variants could help treat BRAF V600E mutant melanomas that have acquired resistance to BRAF kinase inhibitors. In 6 of 19 patients, BRAF V600E mutant melanomas that have acquired resistance to RAF inhibitors expressed truncated BRAF transcripts lacking the Ras-binding domain, whereas Zelboraf-naïve mutant melanomas did not. Next steps include screening additional patients to better estimate the prevalence of this resistance mechanism and using the results to develop more effective BRAF inhibitors or combinations of inhibitors.</p> <p>Zelboraf, an oral small molecule inhibitor of the oncogenic BRAF V600E from Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. and Roche, is marketed to treat melanoma. Roche also has RG7256, a BRAF inhibitor, in Phase I testing for melanoma.</p> <p>GSK2118436, a BRAF inhibitor from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in Phase III testing for melanoma.</p> <p>SciBX 4(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1353 Published online Dec. 15, 2011</p>	Patent pending; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Poulidakos, P.I. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Nov. 23, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10662</p> <p>Contact: David B. Solit, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: solitd@mskcc.org</p>