This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Interferon- γ (IFNG; IFN- γ)	Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest that inhibiting IFNG could help treat or prevent melanoma. In transgenic neonatal mice, exposure to UVB light led to melanoma-like lesions and greater numbers of IFNG-expressing macrophages in the skin than no UVB exposure. In mice bearing murine melanoma cells and macrophages from UVB-exposed mice, intraperitoneal injection of IFNG-blocking antibodies decreased tumor volume compared with injection of control antibodies. In patient melanoma samples, 19 of 26 melanomas had IFNG-expressing macrophages. Next steps include testing the use of IFNG inhibitors in additional mouse models of melanoma. NovImmune S.A.'s NI-0105, a human mAb targeting IFNG, is in preclinical development to treat hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis. SciBX 4(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.160 Published online Feb. 10, 2011	Unpatented; available for licensing	Zaidi, M.R. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Jan 19, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature09666 Contact: Glenn Merlino, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: gmerlino@helix.nih.gov Contact: Edward C. De Fabo, George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, D.C. e-mail: drmeecd@gwumc.edu