This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Glioma	Protein kinase B (PKB; Akt); eukaryotic translation elongation factor 2 (EEF2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting EEF2 could help sensitize cancers to Akt inhibitors. In human glioma cells, the Akt inhibitor MK-2206 plus <i>EEF2</i>-targeting small interfering RNA increased apoptosis compared with MK-2206 plus a nontargeting siRNA control. In mice receiving <i>EEF2</i>-deficient human glioma cells, MK-2206 increased apoptosis compared with that in mice inoculated with <i>EEF2</i>-expressing tumors. Next steps include developing a small molecule inhibitor of EEF2.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. has MK-2206 in Phase I testing to treat cancers. At least seven other companies have Akt inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.221 Published online Feb. 24, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Cheng, Y. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Feb. 9, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-10-2889</p> <p>Contact: Jin-Ming Yang, Pennsylvania State University, Hershey, Pa. e-mail: juy16@psu.edu</p>