This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Multiple myeloma (MM)	Endoplasmic reticulum to nucleus signaling 1 (ERN1; IRE1); x-box binding protein 1 (XBP1)	<p>A study <i>in vitro</i> suggests that inhibitors of IRE1 kinase activity could help treat MM. It has been suggested that XBP1 overexpression drives MM. In myeloma cells under endoplasmic reticulum stress, a broad-spectrum kinase inhibitor that targeted the IRE1 kinase domain led to less production of XBP1 than no treatment. Next steps include developing selective inhibitors of the IRE1 kinase domain and testing their effects in preclinical models of MM. MannKind Corp. has the IRE1 endoribonuclease inhibitor MKC204 in preclinical testing for MM.</p> <p>SciBX 4(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.283 Published online March 10, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Ali, M.M.U. <i>et al. EMBO J.</i>; published online Feb. 11, 2011; doi:10.1038/emboj.2011.18 Contact: Laurence H. Pearl, University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K. e-mail: laurence.pearl@sussex.ac.uk Contact: Faith E. Davies, The Institute of Cancer Research, Surrey, U.K. e-mail: faith.davies@icr.ac.uk Contact: Maruf M.U. Ali, Imperial College London, London, U.K. e-mail: maruf.ali@imperial.ac.uk</p>