This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	β -Catenin (CTNNB1); wingless-type MMTV integration site (WNT)	An RNAi-based chemical genetic screen identified CTNNB1 inhibitors that could help treat cancer. The inhibitors blocked CTNNB1 transcription and WNT-CTNNB1 signaling without affecting CTNNB1 cytoskeletal function. In cell culture, patient samples and mouse xenograft models, the lead inhibitors were toxic against cell lines dependent on WNT-CTNNB1 signaling compared with cell lines that were independent of WNT-CTNNB1 signaling. Next steps include optimizing the lead inhibitors for improved efficacy and solubility and evaluating the compounds in animal models of WNT-CTNNB1-driven cancers. SciBX 4(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.305 Published online March 17, 2011	Screen and family of identified compounds patented; available for licensing from the New York University Office of Industrial Liaison	Gonsalves, F.C. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 7, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1017496108 Contact: Ramanuj DasGupta, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ramanuj.dasgupta@nyumc.org