This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Protein kinase B (PKB; Akt)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a new Akt inhibitor that could help treat cancer. In a cell-based assay, the inhibitor increased Akt ubiquitination, a modification that promotes protein degradation, compared with vehicle controls. In a xenograft mouse model of cancer, the inhibitor lowered tumor growth compared with vehicle control. Next steps include testing the efficacy of the compound in models of other cancers.</p> <p>At least nine companies have Akt inhibitors in developmental stages from preclinical to Phase III testing for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.421 Published online April 14, 2011</p>	Patent application filed for the pharmaceutical composition to treat cancer; available for licensing	<p>Jo, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 4, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1019062108</p> <p>Contact: Hongbo R. Luo, Harvard Medical School and the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: hongbo.luo@childrens.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Hexin Chen, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. e-mail: hchen@biol.sc.edu</p>