This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Protein kinase D3 (PRKD3); BRAF; CRAF (RAF1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest inhibiting PRKD3 could help increase the sensitivity of melanomas to BRAF and CRAF inhibitors. In melanoma cells resistant to the BRAF and CRAF inhibitor RAF265, anti-PRKD3 small interfering RNA increased cell death compared with control siRNA. In multiple human melanoma cell lines, siRNA knockdown of PRKD3 improved sensitivity to RAF265 or the BRAF inhibitor PLX4032 compared with that seen using control siRNA. Next steps could include testing the effects of blocking PRKD3 in combination with BRAF and CRAF inhibitors in animal models of melanoma.</p> <p>Novartis AG's RAF265 is in Phase I testing to treat melanoma.</p> <p>Vemurafenib (PLX4032), a BRAF inhibitor from Roche and Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd., is under FDA review for melanoma.</p> <p>At least three other companies have BRAF or CRAF inhibitors in preclinical or clinical testing for melanoma.</p> <p>SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.594 Published online May 26, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Chen, J. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online April 28, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-10-3761</p> <p>Contact: Jian Chen, Novartis Institute, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jian.chen@novartis.com</p>