This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2 α kinase 1 (EIF2AK1; HRI)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies identified <i>N,N'</i>-diarylurea activators of HRI that could help treat cancer. In a panel of mouse and human cancer cell lines, the HRI activators inhibited proliferation with micromolar and nanomolar IC₅₀ values. In a mouse xenograft model of human breast cancer, an HRI activator inhibited tumor growth compared with vehicle. Next steps include improving the specificity, potency and bioavailability of the identified HRI activators.</p> <p>SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.821 Published online July 28, 2011</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use in cancer, other proliferative and degenerative disorders, malaria and viral infections; available for licensing from the Harvard University Office of Technology Development</p>	<p>Chen, T. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online July 17, 2011; doi:10.1038/nchembio.613 Contact: Bertal H. Aktas, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: huseyin_aktas@hms.harvard.edu</p>