This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	LINE1 retrotransposable element 1 (L1RE1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest reverse transcriptase inhibitors could help treat cancer. In a human melanoma cell line, a lead pyrimidinone analog of an <i>L1RE1</i>-encoded reverse transcriptase inhibitor blocked 95% of growth at 25 μM. In mice with melanoma xenografts, the lead compound decreased tumor growth compared with efavirenz or vehicle. Ongoing work includes testing the compound in animal models of colon, lung and prostate cancer.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. market the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor Sustiva efavirenz to treat HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>SciBX 4(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.851 Published online Aug. 4, 2011</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing or partnering	<p>Sbardella, G. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online July 14, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm200734j</p> <p>Contact: Gianluca Sbardella, University of Salerno, Fisciano, Italy e-mail: gsbardella@unisa.it</p> <p>Contact: Antonello Mai, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy e-mail: antonello.mai@uniroma1.it</p>