This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Reactive oxygen species pathway	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests derivatives of the natural product piperlongumine might be useful for treating cancer. In a panel of cancer cells, piperlongumine decreased cell viability compared with vehicle. In mouse models of melanoma, bladder, breast and lung cancer, piperlongumine lowered tumor growth. Ongoing work includes identifying optimized analogs of piperlongumine and determining the genetic features of human cancers that correlate with hypersensitivity to the molecule.</p> <p>SciBX 4(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.876 Published online Aug. 11, 2011</p>	<p>Patent application filed by Massachusetts General Hospital; licensed by Canthera Therapeutics Inc.</p>	<p>Raj, L. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online July 13, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10167 Contact: Ana Mandinova, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: amandinova@partners.org Contact: Sam W. Lee, same affiliation as above e-mail: swlee@partners.org Contact: Stuart L. Schreiber, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: stuart_schreiber@harvard.edu</p>