This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Nuclear factor (erythroid-derived 2) -like 2 (NFE2L2; NRF2)	Studies in mice identified brusatol as an inhibitor of NRF2 signaling that could help sensitize cancers to chemotherapy. In a mouse xenograft model of human lung cancer, brusatol plus cisplatin decreased tumor growth compared with either compound alone. In mice xenografted with <i>NRF2</i> -deficient human lung cancer cells, brusatol plus cisplatin inhibited tumor growth as well as cisplatin alone. Next steps include evaluating the pharmacokinetics and toxicity of brusatol in an undisclosed animal model. Brusatol is extracted from <i>Brucea javanica</i> , an evergreen shrub. SciBX 4(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.99 Published online Jan. 27, 2011	Patent pending; available for licensing from The University of Arizona Office of Technology Transfer Contact: Nina Ossanna, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. e-mail: nossanna@arizona.edu	Ren, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Jan. 3, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1014275108 Contact: Donna D. Zhang, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. e-mail: dzhang@pharmacy.arizona.edu