This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	p21 Protein (Cdc42 Rac)-activated kinase 1 (PAK1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting PAK1 could help treat K-Ras-driven tumors. In human squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) samples, high levels of PAK1 were associated with advanced disease. In a transgenic mouse model of mutant K-Ras-driven SCC, <i>Pak1</i> knockout delayed tumor growth and decreased progression compared with normal <i>Pak1</i> expression. In mice with established mutant K-Ras-driven SCC tumors, Pak1 inhibitors led to greater tumor regression than vehicle control. Next steps include clinical testing of PAK1 inhibitors.</p> <p>Afraxis Inc. has a PAK inhibitor in the discovery stage to treat CNS disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 5(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1026 Published online Oct. 4, 2012</p>	Findings unpatented; <i>Pak1</i> knockout mice available for licensing	<p>Chow, H.Y. <i>et al. Cancer. Res.</i>; published online Sept. 14, 2012; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-12-2246 Contact: Jonathan Chernoff, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: j_chernoff@fccc.edu</p>