This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Small cell lung cancer (SCLC)	Aurora kinase B (AURKB; aurora-B); c-Myc (MYC)	<p>A cell screening study suggests aurora-B inhibitors could help treat SCLCs with <i>MYC</i> amplification. A screen of 267 small molecules across 44 SCLC cell lines identified genomic alterations that resulted in sensitivity to small molecule aurora-B inhibitors. In <i>MYC</i>-amplified SCLC cell lines, aurora-B inhibitors led to apoptosis, mitochondrial membrane potential collapse and cell-cycle arrest. In SCLC lines without <i>MYC</i> amplification, aurora-B inhibitors did not induce such effects. Next steps could include testing aurora-B inhibitors in patients with <i>MYC</i>-amplified SCLC.</p> <p>Corresponding author Roman Thomas has cofounded cancer genomics company Blackfield AG.</p> <p>At least four companies have aurora-B inhibitors in preclinical or clinical development to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1137 Published online Nov. 1, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Sos, M.L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 3, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1207310109</p> <p>Contact: Roman K. Thomas, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany e-mail: roman.thomas@uni-koeln.de</p> <p>Contact: Martin L. Sos, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: martin.sos@ucsf.edu</p>