This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Aurora kinase B (AURKB; aurora-B)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified an AURKB-specific inhibitor that could help treat cancer. In a ligand-docking screen, a specific inhibitor of AURKB was identified that did not act on 49 other kinases, including AURKA (aurora-A). In human lung cancer cells, the inhibitor induced apoptosis and cell-cycle arrest and decreased anchorage-independent cell growth compared with vehicle control. In a mouse xenograft model of human lung cancer, intraperitoneal injection of the inhibitor suppressed tumor growth, whereas vehicle injection did not. Next steps could include additional animal safety studies.</p> <p>At least four companies have inhibitors of the aurora kinases in clinical and preclinical development to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1202 Published online Nov. 29, 2012</p>	Patent application filed covering the aurora kinase inhibitors; available for licensing	<p>Xie, H. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Nov. 1, 2012; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-12-2784 Contact: Zigang Dong, University of Minnesota, Austin, Minn. e-mail: zgdong@hi.umn.edu</p>