This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Protein kinase B (PKB; PKBA; AKT; AKT1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest identifying the type of AKT1 mutations in patients with cancer could help guide treatment decisions. In a mouse lymphoid cell line, expression of Akt1 with mutations in the pleckstrin homology (PH)-kinase domain (KD) led to constitutive Akt1 activation, whereas expression of wild-type Akt1 did not. <i>In vitro</i>, allosteric AKT1 inhibitors showed lower efficacy for AKT1 with PH-KD mutations than for wild-type AKT1 or AKT1 with other activating mutations. In the same assay, ATP-site inhibitors were effective at blocking AKT1 with PH-KD mutations. Next steps could include determining how various mutations in AKT1 affect tumor responsiveness to various AKT1 inhibitors.</p> <p>At least 11 companies have AKT1 inhibitors in clinical and preclinical development to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1232 Published online Dec. 6, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Parikh, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 7, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1204384109</p> <p>Contact: Somasekar Seshagiri, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: sekar@gene.com</p>