This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Cytoplasmic dynein	<p><i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies identified small molecule inhibitors of cytoplasmic dynein that could help treat cancer. Dynein is a microtubule motor protein required for proper function of the primary cilium, a key regulator of hedgehog signaling. In cell culture, the small molecule inhibitors, named ciliobrevins, disrupted the localization of hedgehog components to the primary cilium and inhibited hedgehog signaling. <i>In vitro</i>, the compounds inhibited dynein ATPase activity, whereas an inactive analog did not. Next steps include developing more potent inhibitors that are selective for different isoforms of cytoplasmic dynein.</p> <p>SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.330 Published online March 29, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Firestone, A.J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 18, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature10936 Contact: James K. Chen, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: jameschen@stanford.edu Contact: Tarun M. Kapoor, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: kapoor@rockefeller.edu</p>