This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 1 (rho family, small GTP binding protein Rac1; RAC1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified a RAC1 inhibitor that could help treat metastatic cancers. In a RAC1-overexpressing metastatic breast cancer cell line, a derivative of the RAC1 inhibitor NSC3766 blocked RAC1 activity with 100-fold better potency than the parent compound and an IC₅₀ value of 1.1 μM. In metastatic melanoma and breast cancer cell lines, 5 μM of the compound inhibited cell growth by 50% compared with vehicle. Next steps include testing the compound's efficacy in a mouse model.</p> <p>SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.333 Published online March 29, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Montalvo-Ortiz, B.L. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online March 1, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.334524 Contact: Suranganie Dharmawardhane, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico e-mail: su.d@upr.edu Contact: Cornelis P. Vlaar, same affiliation as above e-mail: cornelis.vlaar@upr.edu</p>