This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	β -Catenin (CTNNB1)	<p>Studies in mice suggest inhibiting CTNNB1 signaling could help treat melanoma. In a mouse model of melanoma driven by <i>Pten</i> (<i>Mmac1</i>; <i>Tep1</i>) loss and <i>Braf</i> mutations, Ctnnb1 inactivation increased median survival and prevented metastasis compared with normal Ctnnb1 expression. Next steps could include testing a CTNNB1 antagonist in animal models of melanoma.</p> <p>Santaris Pharma A/S and Enzon Pharmaceuticals Inc. have EZN-3892, a CTNNB1 antagonist, in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>Marina Biotech Inc.'s CEQ508, an RNAi targeting CTNNB1, is in Phase I/II testing to treat familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP).</p> <p>SciBX 5(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.40 Published online Jan. 12, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Damsky, W.E. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online Dec. 13, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2011.10.030</p> <p>Contact: Marcus Bosenberg, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: marcus.bosenberg@yale.edu</p> <p>Contact: William E. Damsky, University of Vermont College of Medicine, Burlington, Vt. e-mail: william.damsky@uvm.edu</p>