This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	MAP kinase kinase 1 (MAP2K1; MEK1); MAP2K2 (MEK2)	<p>Patient and cell culture studies identified mutations in MEK1 and MEK2 that could help guide treatment of patients with melanoma. In tissue samples from patients with melanoma, 10 of 127 harbored mutations in MEK1 or MEK2. In two melanoma cell lines with mutations in MEK1 or MEK2, resistance to MEK inhibitors was greater than that in cell lines with wild-type MEK1 or MEK2. Next steps include comparing the therapeutic response to MEK inhibitors in patients with known MEK mutational status. At least 16 companies have MEK inhibitors in Phase I to Phase III testing for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.41 Published online Jan. 12, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Nikolaev, S.I. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Dec. 25, 2011; doi:10.1038/ng.1026 Contact: Stylianos E. Antonarakis, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland e-mail: Stylianos.Antonarakis@unige.ch Contact: Sergey I. Nikolaev, same affiliation as above e-mail: serg.nikolaev@gmail.com Contact: Donata Rimoldi, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland e-mail: donata.rimoldi@unil.ch</p>