This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3; CD333)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting FGFR3 could help sensitize melanomas to BRAF inhibitors. BRAF V600E mutant human melanoma cell lines that have acquired resistance to the BRAF inhibitor Zelboraf vemurafenib showed activation of the MEK–MAP kinase (ERK) pathway. In the Zelboraf-resistant cells, small interfering RNA or an inhibitor against FGFR3 prevented MEK-ERK pathway activation and restored Zelboraf sensitivity, and decreased cancer cell proliferation compared with control siRNA or vehicle. Next steps could include testing FGFR3 inhibition in additional models.</p> <p>Roche, Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. market Zelboraf to treat metastatic melanoma.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 5(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.754 Published online July 26, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Yadav, V. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online June 22, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.377218 Contact: Sheng-Bin Peng, Eli Lilly and Co., Indianapolis, Ind. e-mail: sbpeng@lilly.com</p>