This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 (TRPV1; VR1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest TRPV1 agonists could help treat high-grade astrocytomas. In a mouse model of brain cancer, neural progenitor cells migrated to high-grade astrocytomas and released endovanilloids that agonized Trpv1 and induced cell death. These effects were not found in <i>Trpv1</i> knockout mice or older mice with low levels of neural progenitor cells. In the mouse brain cancer model, systemic delivery of the TRPV1 agonist arvanil decreased the size of high-grade astrocytomas and increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps include developing vanilloids that can be used in humans.</p> <p>SciBX 5(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.781 Published online Aug. 2, 2012</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Stock, K. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 22, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2827</p> <p>Contact: Rainer Glass, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: rainer.glass@med.uni-muenchen.de</p>