This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	BRAF; MEK	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest MEK inhibitors could help treat melanomas carrying the BRAF L597 mutation. In melanoma tissue samples lacking BRAF V600E and other common oncogenic mutations, genomic sequencing identified mutations in BRAF exon 15 including L597 mutations. In human cells with BRAF L597 mutations, a MEK inhibitor decreased oncogenic signaling compared with no inhibitor. One patient with metastatic melanoma who responded to the MEK inhibitor TAK-733 in a Phase I trial was subsequently shown to carry an L597 mutation in BRAF. Next steps could include testing MEK inhibition in animal models of BRAF L597 mutant melanoma.</p> <p>Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. has TAK-733 in Phase I testing for solid tumors.</p> <p>At least six other companies have MEK inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.811 Published online Aug. 9, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Dahlman, K.B. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online July 13, 2012; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-12-0097</p> <p>Contact: William Pao, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: william.pao@vanderbilt.edu</p>