This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR); FGFR3; transforming acidic coiled-coil containing protein 1 (TACC1); TACC3 (ERIC1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest FGFR kinase inhibitors could help treat a subtype of glioblastoma driven by FGFR-TACC fusion proteins. In mice, subcutaneous injection of human primary astrocytes expressing the FGFR3-TACC1 or FGFR3-TACC3 fusion proteins resulted in tumor formation, whereas injection of astrocytes expressing an inactive fusion protein, FGFR3 or TACC3 did not. In mice xenografted with FGFR3-TACC3 transformed human astrocytes, the oral FGFR inhibitor AZD4547 increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps include running a clinical trial of an FGFR kinase inhibitor in patients with glioblastoma prescreened for FGFR-TACC fusions.</p> <p>AstraZeneca plc's AZD4547 is in Phase II testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>At least eight other companies have compounds targeting FGFR in Phase III to preclinical development for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.893 Published online Aug. 30, 2012</p>	Patent application filed for diagnostic and therapeutic uses; available for licensing through Columbia Technology Ventures	<p>Singh, D. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online July 26, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1220834 Contact: Antonio Iavarone, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ai2102@columbia.edu Contact: Raul Rabadan, same affiliation as above e-mail: abadan@dbmi.columbia.edu Contact: Anna Lasorella, same affiliation as above e-mail: al2179@columbia.edu</p>