This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)	MAP kinase 1 (MAPK1; ERK-2); MAPK3 (ERK-1); MAP kinase kinase 1 (MAP2K1; MEK1)	Mouse studies suggest blocking ERK-1 and ERK-2 signaling in the retina could help treat dry AMD. In mice with Alu RNA-induced degeneration of retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells, intravitreal delivery of PD98059, a reagent that inhibits MEK1 and blocks phosphorylation of ERK-1 and ERK-2, decreased Alu RNA-mediated cytotoxicity compared with delivery of vehicle. Next steps could include studying additional inhibitors of ERK-1 and ERK-2 in the mice.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Dridi, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 6, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1206494109 Contact: Jayakrishna Ambati, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. e-mail: jamba2@email.uky.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 5(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.938 Published online Sept. 6, 2012				