This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	BRAF; neuroblastoma Ras viral (v-Ras) oncogene (NRAS)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies have identified a pan-Raf kinase inhibitor that could help treat <i>BRAF</i> - or <i>NRAS</i> -mutant melanoma. In binding studies, the inhibitor TAK-632 bound BRAF with an IC_{50} of about 2.4 nM and with 67-fold selectivity over VEGF receptor 2 (KDR/Flk-1; VEGFR-2). In two mouse xenograft models of melanoma, TAK-632 decreased tumor volume compared with vehicle. Next steps include studying the compound in additional mutant <i>NRAS</i> cell lines to help determine the optimal indication for clinical testing.	Patent filed by Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.; licensing status undisclosed	Okaniwa, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 1, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400778d Contact: Tomoyasu Ishikawa, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Kanagawa, Japan e-mail: tomoyasu.ishikawa@takeda.com Contact: Masaaki Hirose, same affiliation as above e-mail: masaaki.hirose@takeda.com Contact: Masanori Okaniwa, same affiliation as above e-mail: masanori.okaniwa@takeda.com
		SciBX 6(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1061 Published online Oct. 3, 2013		