This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Aurora kinases; polo-like kinase 1 (PLK1; STPK13)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest inhibiting aurora kinases or PLK1 could help treat sonic hedgehog homolog (SHH)-associated medulloblastoma. In mouse tumor cells with enhanced SHH signaling, aurora kinase and PLK1 inhibitors decreased proliferation and increased apoptosis compared with vehicle. In a mouse model of SHH-associated medulloblastoma, a PLK1 inhibitor increased tumor cell apoptosis and decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle. Next steps include clinical testing of aurora kinase and PLK1 inhibitors in medulloblastoma.</p> <p>At least 21 companies have aurora kinase or PLK1 inhibitors in Phase III testing or earlier to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 6(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1215 Published online Nov. 7, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Markant, S.L. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Sept. 25, 2013; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-12-4258</p> <p>Contact: Robert J. Wechsler-Reya, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: rwreya@sanfordburnham.org</p>