This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Protein kinase N1 (PKN1)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting PKN1 could help increase the efficacy of BRAF inhibitors in treating melanoma. In samples from patients with melanoma, lower wingless-type MMTV integration site (WNT) signaling was associated with higher PKN1 levels. In melanoma cells, small interfering RNA against PKN1 increased WNT pathway signaling and apoptosis triggered by wingless-type MMTV integration site family member 3A (Wnt3a) or a BRAF inhibitor compared with control siRNAs. Next steps include testing the effects of PKN1 inhibitors in animal models of melanoma growth and developing PKN1-specific inhibitors. Zelboraf vemurafenib, a small molecule BRAF inhibitor, is marketed by Roche and Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. to treat metastatic melanoma in patients expressing the V600E BRAF mutation. Tafinlar dabrafenib, a small molecule BRAF inhibitor from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is marketed to treat metastatic melanoma in patients expressing mutant BRAF.</p> <p>SciBX 6(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1253 Published online Nov. 14, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status not applicable	<p>James, R.G. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 10, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.500314 Contact: Randall T. Moon, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: rtmoon@uw.edu Contact: Richard G. James, same affiliation as above e-mail: rickerj@uw.edu</p>