This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer (CRC)	B cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2); Bcl-x _L ; mammalian target of rapamycin complex 1 (mTORC1); mTORC2	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest antagonizing mTORC1 or mTORC2 in combination with BCL-2 and Bcl-x_L could be useful for treating K-Ras (KRAS)- or BRAF-mutant CRC. In cell culture and two mouse models of CRC, a combination of the BCL-2 and Bcl-x_L inhibitor navitoclax (ABT-263) and a pan-mTOR (FRAP; RAFT1) inhibitor decreased growth of KRAS- and BRAF-mutant tumors but not that of tumors with wild-type KRAS or BRAF. Next steps could include preclinical optimization of a combination therapy with agents in clinical development. AbbVie Inc.'s ABT-263 is in Phase I/II testing for advanced small cell lung cancer (SCLC).</p> <p>At least a dozen BCL-2 and Bcl-x_L inhibitors are in Phase II or earlier development for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 6(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1343 Published online Dec. 12, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Faber, A.C. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online Oct. 25, 2013; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-13-0315</p> <p>Contact: Jeffrey A. Engelman, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jengelman@partners.org</p>