This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	K-Ras; 3-phosphoinositide- dependent protein kinase-1 (PDK1; PDK1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting PDK1 could help prevent mutant <i>K-Ras</i>-driven pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas (PDACs). In the epithelial cells of <i>K-ras</i> mutant mice, <i>Pdk1</i> inactivation prevented acinar-to-ductal development of premalignant pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasias and PDACs. The mice also had higher median survival than <i>K-ras</i> mutant mice expressing functional <i>Pdk1</i>. Next steps could include testing clinical-stage PDK1 inhibitors in mouse models for PDAC.</p> <p>Arno Therapeutics Inc.'s AR-12, a small molecule PDK1 inhibitor that blocks the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) and protein kinase B (PKB; PKBA; AKT; AKT1) pathway, is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors and lymphoma.</p> <p>SciBX 6(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.264 Published online March 21, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Eser, S. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online Feb. 28, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.01.023 Contact: Dieter Saur, Technical University Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: dieter.saur@lrz.tum.de</p>