This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	Ret proto-oncogene (RET); KIF5B-RET oncogenic fusion protein	<p>Preliminary results from an investigator-initiated Phase II trial suggest small molecule RET inhibitors could help treat RET fusion-positive lung cancers. Last year, KIF5B-RET fusions were identified in 1%–2% of patients with NSCLC. In three RET fusion-positive patients treated with Cometriq cabozantinib, two had a confirmed partial response and the third had stable disease. Next steps include expanding the clinical trial and continuing patient follow-up.</p> <p>Exelixis Inc. markets Cometriq, a small molecule c-Met receptor tyrosine kinase and VEGF inhibitor that also inhibits RET, to treat medullary thyroid cancer.</p> <p>Ariad Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Iclusig ponatinib, a pan-BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitor that also inhibits RET, is in a separate investigator-led Phase II trial to treat RET fusion-positive NSCLC.</p> <p>SciBX 6(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.335 Published online April 11, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status not applicable	<p>Drilon, A. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online March 26, 2013; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-13-0035</p> <p>Contact: Naiyer A. Rizvi, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: rizvin@mskcc.org</p>