This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Dual-specificity tyrosine-(Y)-phosphorylation-regulated kinase 1A (DYRK1A); epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting DYRK1A could help treat glioblastoma. In patient glioblastoma samples, increased expression of EGFR, a common driver of the disease, correlated with increased expression of DYRK1A. In cultured glioblastoma cells, <i>DYRK1A</i>-targeting small hairpin RNA or a nonspecific DYRK1A inhibitor both decreased EGFR levels and the number of tumor-initiating cells compared with control shRNA or vehicle, respectively. In a mouse xenograft model for glioblastoma, shRNA-mediated knockdown of DYRK1A led to decreased tumor growth compared with no knockdown. Next steps include testing DYRK1A inhibition in combination with chemotherapy and radiotherapy and testing more specific DYRK1A inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 6(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.459 Published online May 16, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Pozo, N. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 1, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI63623 Contact: Pilar Sánchez-Gómez, Carlos III Health Institute, Majadahonda, Spain e-mail: psanchezg@isci.es</p>