This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	K-Ras; son of sevenless homolog 1 (SOS1); CRAF (RAF1)	<p><i>In vitro</i>, cell culture and mouse studies identified small molecule K-Ras inhibitors that could help treat cancer. Previous studies identified small molecules that bound to K-Ras and blocked its activation by SOS1. In the current study, structure-based drug discovery identified a new series of compounds that inhibited the interaction between GTP-bound K-Ras, RAF1 and SOS1. In mice with colon cancer cells driven by oncogenic K-Ras, the compounds decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle. Next steps include optimizing structures of the compounds and improving their potency.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. has a discovery stage K-Ras inhibitor program.</p> <p>SciBX 6(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.465 Published online May 16, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Shima, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 29, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1217730110</p> <p>Contact: Tohru Kataoka, Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe, Japan e-mail: ataoka@people.kobe-u.ac.jp</p> <p>Contact: Fumi Shima, same affiliation as above e-mail: sfumi@med.kobe-u.ac.jp</p>