This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Mdm2 p53 binding protein homolog (MDM2; HDM2); p53	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified MI-888 as an inhibitor of MDM2-p53 protein-protein interactions that could help treat cancer. In the <i>in vitro</i> binding studies, MI-888 showed subnanomolar binding affinity for MDM2. In a mouse xenograft model for human osteosarcoma, MI-888 caused complete tumor regression, whereas vehicle did not. Mice remained tumor free for at least 64 days after the last dose of MI-888. Next steps include testing and optimizing MI-888 for use in multiple tumor types.</p> <p>Ascenta Therapeutics Inc. and Sanofi have MI-773, a related small molecule inhibitor of p53-MDM2 protein-protein interactions, in Phase I testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.515 Published online May 30, 2013</p>	Patent applications filed; licensed to Ascenta and sublicensed to Sanofi	<p>Zhao, Y. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online May 3, 2013; doi:10.1021/ja3125417</p> <p>Contact: Shaomeng Wang, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: shaomeng@umich.edu</p>