This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Neurofibromatosis	Neurofibromin 1 (NF1); MEK	<p>Two studies in mice suggest MEK inhibitors could help treat cancers with mutations in <i>NF1</i>. In a mouse model of neurofibromatosis type 1, a familial cancer in which mutations in <i>NF1</i> increase the risk of juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia, the MEK inhibitor PD-0325901 decreased blood leukocyte counts and spleen size and increased survival compared with vehicle. In the second study, PD-0325901 decreased the size of neurofibromas and increased survival compared with vehicle in a patient xenograft mouse model of neurofibromatosis type 1. Next steps could include clinical trials of MEK inhibitors in patients with neurofibrosis type 1.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc.'s combination of PD-0325901 and PF-04691502 is in Phase I testing in cancer.</p> <p>At least seven other companies have MEK inhibitors in clinical testing for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 6(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.9 Published online Jan. 10, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable for both papers	<p>Chang, T. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Dec. 10, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI63193 Contact: Kevin Shannon, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: shannonk@peds.ucsf.edu</p> <p>Jessen, W.J. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Dec. 10, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI60578 Contact: Nancy Ratner, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio e-mail: nancy.ratner@cchmc.org</p>