This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	SWI/SNF-related matrix-associated actin-dependent regulator of chromatin subfamily a member 2 (SMARCA2; BRM); SMARCA4 (BRG1)	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting BRM could help treat <i>BRG1</i> -mutant cancers. BRM and BRG1 are related ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling proteins. An shRNA library targeting chromatin regulators was screened across a panel of cancer cell lines, and BRM was found to be essential for growth of <i>BRG1</i> -mutant cell lines. In <i>BRG1</i> -mutant lung cancer cell lines, <i>BRM</i> -targeting shRNA decreased growth compared with control shRNA. In xenograft mice bearing <i>BRG1</i> -mutant human lung cancer cells, shRNA depletion of <i>BRM</i> decreased tumor growth compared with no depletion. Next steps could include developing and testing specific inhibitors of BRM.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Hoffman, G.R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Feb. 11, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1316793111 Contact: Zainab Jagani, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: zainab.jagani@novartis.com Contact: Frank Stegmeier, same affiliation as above e-mail: frank.stegmeier@novartis.com
<i>SciBX</i> 7(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.251 Published online March 6, 2014				