This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Liver X receptor- β (NR1H2; LXR- β)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest agonizing LXR-β could be useful for treating metastatic melanoma. The liver X receptor can exist as two isoforms, LXR-α (NR1H3) or LXR-β. In cell culture, LXR agonists suppressed melanoma invasion and growth in cells with intact LXR-β but not in cells with LXR-β-targeting shRNA. In mouse models of melanoma, LXR agonists decreased tumor vascularization and metastasis and increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps include preclinical testing of an optimized LXR-β-selective agonist. Rgenix Inc. has RGF-104, an LXR-β agonist derived from the tool compounds used in this study, in preclinical development for melanoma. Vitae Pharmaceuticals Inc. has two LXR-β agonists in preclinical development for atherosclerosis, acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and atopic dermatitis.</p> <p>SciBX 7(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.252 Published online March 6, 2014</p>	Patent pending; licensed to Rgenix	<p>Pencheva, N. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Feb. 27, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.01.038</p> <p>Contact: Sohail F. Tavazoie, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: stavazoie@mail.rockefeller.edu</p>