This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	V-rel reticuloendotheliosis viral oncogene homolog A (RELA; p65); chromosome 11 open reading frame 95 (C11orf95)	<p>Patient sample and cell culture studies suggest targeting a C11orf95-RELA fusion protein could help treat supratentorial ependymomas. Genetic analyses of patient brain tumor samples identified an oncogenic fusion between RELA and C11orf95 in about 70% of supratentorial ependymomas and in no cases of posterior fossa ependymomas. In nude mice, implants of neural stem cells expressing the C11orf95-RELA fusion protein induced brain tumor formation and resulted in decreased survival compared with implants of cells expressing C11orf95 or RELA alone. Next steps include determining the mechanism by which the fusion protein transforms neural stem cells into malignant cells and using the mouse models to screen for therapeutics targeting the fusion protein.</p> <p>SciBX 7(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.280 Published online March 13, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Parker, M. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Feb. 19, 2014; doi:10.1038/nature13109 Contact: Richard J. Gilbertson, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital–Washington University Pediatric Cancer Genome Project, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: richard.gilbertson@stjude.org Contact: David W. Ellison, same affiliation as above e-mail: david.ellison@stjude.org Contact: Jinghui Zhang, same affiliation as above e-mail: jinghui.zhang@stjude.org</p>