This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	ATG5 autophagy related 5 homolog (ATG5); ATG7; K-Ras (KRAS); p53	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting autophagy in KRAS-driven pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas (PDACs) lacking p53 could accelerate tumor formation. In a mouse model of Kras-driven PDAC, Atg5- or Atg7-deficient mice that also lacked p53 had accelerated development of PDAC compared with mice with intact p53. In p53-deficient mice with PDAC, compared with those with intact p53, the autophagy inhibitor hydroxychloroquine accelerated PDAC formation and decreased survival. Next steps could include meta-analyses of data from clinical studies testing autophagy inhibitors.</p> <p>Hydroxychloroquine, a generic inhibitor of autophagy, is in investigator-led Phase II trials for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 7(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.54 Published online Jan. 16, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Rosenfeldt, M.T. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Dec. 4, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12865</p> <p>Contact: Kevin M. Ryan, The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: k.ryan@beatson.gla.ac.uk</p>