This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	MEK	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest the MEK inhibitor Mekinist trametinib could be useful for treating <i>K-Ras</i> (<i>KRAS</i>)-mutant cancers. In a mouse model of <i>Kras</i>-mutant pancreatic cancer, Craf (Raf1)-targeting shRNAs promoted MEK inhibitor-induced growth suppression, suggesting resistance to MEK inhibitors in such cancers could be driven by RAF1 signaling. In <i>KRAS</i>-mutant human cancer cells, trametinib, which disrupted the interaction between RAF1 and MEK, decreased proliferation compared with a MEK inhibitor, which did not disrupt the interaction. Next steps could include designing clinical trials to test trametinib and other newer MEK inhibitors in patients with <i>KRAS</i>-mutant cancers. Japan Tobacco Inc. markets Mekinist to treat melanoma. The drug is also in Phase II testing to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 7(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.554 Published online May 15, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Lito, P. <i>et al.</i> <i>Cancer Cell</i>; published online April 15, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2014.03.011 Contact: Neal Rosen, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: rosenn@mskcc.org Contact: Scott Lowe, same affiliation as above e-mail: lowes@mskcc.org</p>