This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	c-Myc (MYC); plasmacytoma variant translocation 1 oncogene (PVT1)	Studies in patient samples and cell culture suggest inhibiting PVT1 could be useful for treating MYC-driven cancers. In murine cells with amplification of the chromosomal region containing Myc, <i>Pvt1</i> siRNA decreased proliferation compared with control siRNA. In 8,657 human tumor samples with amplification of this chromosomal region, 98% showed increased copies of both MYC and PVT1. In mice, injection of <i>PVT1</i> -deficient, MYC-driven human colorectal cancer cells resulted in decreased tumor formation and tumor growth compared with injection of cells expressing <i>PVT1</i> . Next steps include elucidating how PVT1 modulates MYC expression and activity in cancer and developing chemical screens to identify small molecules that could disrupt PVT1-MYC cooperation.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Tseng, Y.-Y. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online June 22, 2014; doi:10.1038/nature13311 Contact: Anindya Bagchi, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. e-mail: bagch005@umn.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 7(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.823 Published online July 24, 2014				