This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colon cancer	BMI1 polycomb ring finger oncogene (BMI1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting BMI1 expression could help treat colon cancer. In cultured cancer-initiating cells from human colon tumors, shRNA knockdown of <i>BMI1</i> prevented both cell self-renewal and the formation of tumors when cells were implanted into mice. In mouse xenograft models with established human colon cancer, PTC-209, a small molecule inhibitor of BMI1 expression, decreased cancer-initiating tumor cells and irreversibly decreased tumor volume compared with vehicle. Next steps include optimizing the BMI1 inhibitor series.</p> <p>PTC Therapeutics Inc. has BMI1-expression inhibitors including PTC-596 and PTC-209 in preclinical testing for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 7(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.83 Published online Jan. 23, 2014</p>	Patent application filed by PTC Therapeutics; available for licensing	<p>Kreso, A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Dec. 1, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3418</p> <p>Contact: John E. Dick, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: jdick@uhnres.utoronto.ca</p>