This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Neuroblastoma	Unknown	<p>Studies in patient tissue, cell culture and mice suggest 2-O, 3-O-desulfated heparin, a subtype of heparan sulfate, could be useful for treating neuroblastoma. In tissue biopsies from patients with neuroblastoma, high levels of heparan sulfate expression in the stroma correlated with improved prognosis over patients with low stromal heparan sulfate. In cell culture and xenograft models of neuroblastoma, 2-O, 3-O-desulfated heparin decreased tumor growth and increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps could include identification of molecular targets responsible for the antitumor effect of 2-O, 3-O-desulfated heparin.</p> <p>SciBX 7(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.861 Published online July 31, 2014</p>	Patent pending; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Knelson, E.H. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online June 17, 2014; doi:10.1172/JCI74270 Contact: Gerard C. Blobe, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C. e-mail: gerard.blobe@duke.edu</p>