This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Cerebral cavernous malformation 2 (CCM2); neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 1 (NTRK1;TrkA)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that upregulating CCM2 could help treat neuroblastoma. In cultured neuroblastoma and medulloblastoma cells, anti-CCM2 small hairpin RNA reduced cell death compared with control shRNA. A gene expression analysis of 478 pediatric neuroblastoma patients showed that higher levels of CCM2 and TrkA correlated with improved outcomes and increased long-term survival. Next steps include determining the role of TrkA-CCM2 signaling during tumor regression and identifying therapeutic targets. AstraZeneca plc's AZ23, a TrkA inhibitor, is in preclinical testing to treat acute myelogenous leukemia (AML).</p> <p>SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1369 Published online Sept. 17, 2009</p>	Patent pending on findings; the Yeda technology transfer arm of the Weizmann Institute of Science is seeking a licensee	<p>Harel, L. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online Sept. 9, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2009.08.020 Contact: Mike Fainzilber, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel e-mail: mike.fainzilber@weizmann.ac.il</p>