This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Skin cancer	Cullin 4A (CUL4A)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that inhibiting CUL4A, a ubiquitin ligase, could help prevent or treat skin cancer. In a mouse model of UV-induced skin carcinogenesis, 1 of 13 mice with skin-specific loss of Cul4a developed squamous cell carcinoma, whereas all 19 controls developed skin tumors ($p < 0.00001$). Studies in mouse embryonic fibroblasts showed that Cul4a inhibition increased the expression of proteins that detect DNA damage. Next steps include evaluating the effects of CUL4A inhibition in humans.</p> <p>SciBX 2(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.939 Published online June 11, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Cornell Center for Technology, Enterprise and Commercialization	<p>Liu, L. <i>et al. Mol. Cell</i>; published online May 28, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2009.04.020 Contact: Pengbo Zhou, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: pez2001@med.cornell.edu</p>