

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	BRCA1-associated protein 1 (BAP1)	<p>Studies in patient tissue samples and in cell culture suggest that mutant BAP1 contributes to metastatic melanoma and could be a therapeutic target. In patients with metastatic uveal melanoma, 26 of 31 tumor samples (84%) contained inactivating somatic mutations in BAP1. In a uveal melanoma cell line, small interfering RNA knockdown of BAP1 resulted in cell morphology and gene expression changes similar to those in highly metastatic tumor biopsies. Next steps include analyzing additional tumors and normal patient blood samples to further characterize the spectrum of BAP1 mutations.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 3(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1352 Published online Nov. 18, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Washington University in St. Louis Office of Technology Management</p>	<p>Harbour, J.W. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Nov. 4, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1194472 Contact: Anne M. Bowcock, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: bowcock@genetics.wustl.edu Contact: J. William Harbour, same affiliation as above e-mail: harbour@vision.wustl.edu</p>