This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Activating transcription factor 2 (ATF2)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting ATF2 could help treat melanoma. In a transgenic mouse model of melanoma, melanocyte-specific expression of a nonfunctional Atf2 mutant led to less development of the cancer than expression of functional Atf2. Next steps include developing inhibitors of ATF2. SciBX 4(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.102 Published online Jan. 27, 2011	Patent granted covering role of ATF2 in cancer; patent application filed covering short peptides that inhibit ATF2 activity to prevent melanoma development; available for licensing	Shah, M. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i> ; published online Dec. 23, 2010; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1001258 Contact: Zeev A. Ronai, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ronai@sanfordburnham.org