This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Protein kinase DNA-activated catalytic polypeptide (PRKDC; DNAPK)	*In vitro* studies suggest that a peptide inhibitor of PRKDC could help treat cancer. Combinatorial phage display screening identified 9-residue peptides that bound 50 proteins involved in repairing DNA double-strand breaks. In irradiated Kaposi's sarcoma, *breast cancer 1 early onset* (*BRCA1*)-deficient breast cancer and/or *BRCA2*-deficient pancreatic cancer cell lines, a PRKDC-targeting peptide decreased PRKDC activation and increased the number of cytotoxic DNA double-strand breaks compared with scrambled control peptides. Ongoing work includes developing a cell-based screening assay to characterize the remaining peptide hits. *SciBX* 4(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.310 Published online March 17, 2011	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	Moeller, B.J. *et al. Cancer Res.*; published online Feb. 22, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-10-2361 **Contact:** Wadih Arap, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: warap@mdanderson.org **Contact:** Renata Pasqualini, same affiliation as above e-mail: rpasqual@mdanderson.org