This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	NUAK family SNF1-like kinase 2 (NUAK2)	Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest that inhibiting NUAK2 could help treat acral lentiginous melanoma, which accounts for about 5% of all melanoma cases. In acral melanoma tissue samples, high levels of NUAK2 were associated with greater patient relapse than low levels of NUAK2. In mice with *NUAK2*-expressing melanoma cells, anti-NUAK2 small hairpin RNA decreased tumor growth compared with empty control vector. Next steps include searching for inhibitors of NUAK2 and its downstream pathway.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Namiki, T. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online March 28, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1007694108 **Contact:** Vincent J. Hearing, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: hearingv@nih.gov

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