This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Phosphodiesterase-4 (PDE-4); cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP)	<p>A study in cell culture suggests that inhibiting the cAMP-specific PDE-4 may help treat Ras-dependent melanomas. In Ras-mutated human melanoma cell lines, a PDE-4 inhibitor led to greater apoptosis than a vehicle control. Next steps include testing PDE-4 inhibitors in mouse models of Ras-dependent melanoma.</p> <p>Ketas ibudilast, a PDE-4, leukotriene B4 receptor and nitric oxide synthase (NOS) inhibitor from Kyorin Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., is marketed to treat asthma and stroke.</p> <p>Daliresp roflumilast, a nonsteroidal PDE-4 inhibitor from Nycomed, Forest Laboratories Inc., Merck & Co. Inc. and Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corp., is marketed to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).</p> <p>SciBX 4(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.424 Published online April 14, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Marquette, A. <i>et al. Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.</i>; published online April 10, 2011; doi:10.1038/nsmb.2022</p> <p>Contact: Nicolas Dumaz, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: nicolas.dumaz@inserm.fr</p>