This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Mdm2 p53 binding protein homolog (MDM2; HDM2); mdm4 p53 binding protein homolog (MDM4; MDMX)	Studies in mice suggest that ocular formulations of MDM2 and MDMX antagonists could help treat retinoblastoma. In a mouse model of retinoblastoma, subconjunctival injection of the MDM2 and MDMX antagonist nutlin-3A plus systemic treatment with topotecan slowed disease progression compared with topotecan alone. In xenograft mice with implanted retinoblastoma cells, nutlin-3A plus topotecan slowed disease progression compared with topotecan alone. Next steps include conducting additional animal toxicity studies in preparation for clinical testing. R7112, a nutlin MDM2 antagonist from Roche, is in Phase I trials to treat cancer. Johnson & Johnson's MDM2 antagonist JNJ-26854165 is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors. Ascenta Therapeutics Inc. and Sanofi have two MDM2 inhibitors in preclinical testing to treat cancer. GlaxoSmithKline plc markets the camptothecin derivative Hycamtin topotecan for cervical cancer and small cell lung cancer. SciBX 4(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.536 Published online May 12, 2011	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Brennan, R.C. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online April 22, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-0058 Contact: Michael A. Dyer, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: michael.dyer@stjude.org