

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Renal disease</b>				
Polycystic kidney disease (PKD)	Aurora kinase A (AURKA; Aurora-A); polycystic kidney disease 2 (PKD2)	<p>Studies in patient samples and in cell culture suggest that inhibiting AURKA could help treat PKD. In primary cysts derived from PKD patients, AURKA was highly expressed and active in epithelial cells lining the cyst. In cultured kidney cells, an AURKA inhibitor increased PKD2 activity, which is reduced in PKD, compared with vehicle control. Next steps include testing AURKA inhibitors in mouse models of PKD.</p> <p>At least eight companies have AURKA inhibitors in development for cancer indications.</p> <p><b>SciBX 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.769</b>  <b>Published online July 14, 2011</b></p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Plotnikova, O.V. <i>et al. J. Cell Biol.</i>; published online June 13, 2011; doi:10.1083/jcb.201012061</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Erica A. Golemis, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Pa.  e-mail:  <a href="mailto:EA_Golemis@fcc.edu">EA_Golemis@fcc.edu</a></p>