This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Glutamine–fructose-6-phosphate transaminase 1 (GFPT1); K-Ras; MEK; ribose 5-phosphate isomerase A (RPIA)	*In vitro* studies identified targets involved in pancreatic cancer metabolism that could help treat K-Ras-driven cancers. In a mouse model of K-Ras-driven pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, removal of K-Ras expression caused tumor regression and downregulation of genes including *Gfpt1* and *Rpia*, which regulate cellular pathways related to glucose metabolism. In the cancer cells, inhibiting MEK reduced expression of the same set of cancer metabolism genes as removing K-Ras expression. Next steps include conducting mechanistic studies of the pathways and designing inhibitors. At least 10 companies have MEK inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat various cancers. *SciBX* 5(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.517 Published online May 17, 2012	Patent application filed by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; available for licensing	Ying, H. *et al. Cell*; published online April 27, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.01.058 **Contact:** Ronald A. DePinho, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: rdepinho@mdanderson.org **Contact:** Alec C. Kimmelman, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: alec_kimmelman@dfci.harvard.edu