

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Mdm4 p53 binding protein homolog (MDM4; MDMX)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest antagonizing MDM4 could help treat melanoma. In a panel of 54 primary cutaneous and metastatic melanomas, MDM4 was overexpressed in about 65% of tumor tissues. In mice, a stapled peptide antagonist of MDM4 decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle. In melanoma cell culture, the stapled peptide increased the anticancer effect of the BRAF inhibitor Zelboraf vemurafenib compared with vehicle. Next steps include improving the pharmacological properties of the stapled peptide and screening for small molecule MDM4 antagonists.</p> <p>Roche, Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. market Zelboraf to treat melanoma. It is also in Phase I testing for colorectal cancer and Phase II testing for thyroid cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.812 Published online Aug. 9, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Gembarska, A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 22, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2863</p> <p>Contact: Jean-Christophe Marine, Center for Human Genetics, Leuven, Belgium e-mail: jeanchristophe.marine@cme.vib-kuleuven.be</p>