

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Receptor tyrosine kinase-like orphan receptor 1 (ROR1); ROR2	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting ROR2 could help treat invasive melanoma. Proliferative, ROR1⁺, noninvasive melanoma cells can phenotypically switch to a ROR2⁺, invasive phenotype. In noninvasive melanoma cells, small interfering RNA targeting ROR1 increased ROR2 levels and invasion compared with control siRNA. In mice with BRAF-mutant melanoma cells with low sensitivity to the BRAF inhibitor Zelboraf vemurafenib, siRNA targeting ROR2 sensitized cancer cells to vemurafenib. Next steps include developing a ROR2 inhibitor. Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd., Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Roche market Zelboraf to treat melanoma.</p> <p>SciBX 6(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1288 Published online Nov. 21, 2013</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>O'Connell, M.P. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online Oct. 8, 2013; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-13-0005 Contact: Ashani T. Weeraratna, The Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: aweeraratna@wistar.org</p>