This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Eukaryotic translation elongation factor 2 kinase (EEF2K)	<p>Patient, mouse and cell culture studies suggest inhibiting EEF2K could help improve the efficacy of nutrient deprivation therapy for cancer. In a human osteosarcoma cell line, small interfering RNA against EEF2K increased nutrient deprivation-induced apoptosis compared with control siRNA. In mice subjected to caloric restriction, injection of transformed fibroblasts overexpressing <i>Eef2k</i> led to larger tumors than injection of transformed fibroblasts not overexpressing <i>Eef2k</i>. In patients who have medulloblastoma or glioblastoma, expression of <i>EEF2K</i> was significantly associated with decreased survival ($p=0.00003$). Next steps could include screening for pharmacological inhibitors of EEF2K and evaluating their effects in cancer models.</p> <p>SciBX 6(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.594 Published online June 20, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Leprivier, G. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online May 23, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.04.055 Contact: Poul H. Sorensen, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: psor@mail.ubc.ca</p>