This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Liver cancer	Metadherin (MTDH; AEG1)	Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that inhibiting AEG1 could increase the potency of the chemotherapeutic 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) in resistant hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). AEG1 is frequently overexpressed in aggressive HCC. AEG1-expressing human HCC cells were more resistant to 5-FU than cells that did not express AEG1. In mice with resistant human HCC tumors, AEG1 small interfering RNA plus 5-FU reduced tumor growth compared with either agent alone. Next steps could include testing the combination in transgenic animal models of HCC. SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1143 Published online July 30, 2009	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Yoo, B. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 13, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901451106 Contact: Devanand Sarkar, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, Richmond, Va. e-mail: dsarkar@vcu.edu