This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Mucin 1 (MUC1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a synthetic vaccine containing a tumor-associated MUC1 antigen could help treat cancer. The synthetic vaccine targets the MUC1 glycopeptide, which is overexpressed in tumor tissues. In mice, the vaccine induced a strong and specific immune response against MUC1. Next steps include proving selectivity of the induced sera and antibodies, generating mAbs and proving that the vaccines have antitumor efficacy in mouse models.</p> <p>At least four companies have anticancer compounds targeting MUC1 in clinical and preclinical testing.</p> <p>SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1271 Published online Aug. 27, 2009</p>	Vaccine unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Kaiser, A. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online Aug. 18, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200902564</p> <p>Contact: Horst Kunz, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Mainz, Germany e-mail: hokunz@uni-mainz.de</p>