This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that systemically delivered aptamer–small interfering RNA chimeras could help treat prostate cancer. To enhance the efficacy of the chimeras, nucleotide overhangs were added, the aptamer portion was truncated for large-scale production and polyethylene glycol was added to increase circulation half-life. In mice bearing PSMA⁺ prostate cancer tumors, subcutaneous injection of the chimeras caused tumor regression compared with injection of control buffer. Next steps include studies in large animals and more detailed pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies.</p> <p>At least six companies have therapeutics for prostate cancer targeting PSMA in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed.</p> <p>SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1275 Published online Aug. 27, 2009</p>	International patent application filed by The University of Iowa Research Foundation (UIRF); inquiries regarding licensing should be addressed to the UIRF	<p>Dassie, J. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Aug. 23, 2009; doi:10.1038/nbt.1560</p> <p>Contact: Paloma H. Giangrande, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: paloma-giangrande@uiowa.edu</p>