This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Hormonally upregulated Neu-associated kinase (HUNK)	<p>Studies in humans and mice suggest that inhibiting <i>HUNK</i> could help prevent cancer metastasis. In samples from lymph node-positive breast cancer patients, <i>HUNK</i> expression was significantly higher than in samples from patients with lymph node-negative disease ($p=2.9\times 10^{-5}$). In a mouse model of breast cancer, <i>Hunk</i> knockout led to fivefold lower rates of lung metastasis than normal Hunk expression ($p<0.0001$). Mice injected with Hunk-expressing tumor cells had an 11.6-fold increase in metastasis compared with controls receiving Hunk-deficient tumor cells ($p<0.0001$). Next steps include screening for small molecule HUNK inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1305 Published online Sept. 3, 2009</p>	Multiple issued patents; available for licensing from the University of Pennsylvania Center for Technology Transfer	<p>Wertheim, G.B.W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 24, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0906993106</p> <p>Contact: Lewis A. Chodosh, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: chodosh@mail.med.upenn.edu</p>