This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Filamin A (FLNA); prion protein (PRNP; PrP; CD230)	Studies in patient tissue samples and in mice suggest that disrupting interactions between PrP and its binding partner FLNA could help treat pancreatic cancer. Patients with PrP ⁺ pancreatic tumors had significantly lower mean survival than patients that had PrP ⁻ tumors ($p < 0.001$). In two mouse models of human pancreatic cancer, small hairpin RNA-mediated knockdown of PrP lowered tumor growth compared with that seen using scramble shRNA. Next steps include studies to show that blocking interactions between PrP and FLNA can prevent tumor growth and invasion <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> .	Patent application filed for PrP as a diagnostic marker and potential therapeutic target in cancer; available for licensing from the Case Western Reserve University Office of Technology Transfer	Li, C. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Aug. 17, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI39542 Contact: Man-Sun Sy, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: man-sun.sy@case.edu
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