This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Neuropilin 1 (NRP1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified peptides that could be used to deliver therapeutics to cancer cells expressing NRP1. A screen of peptides targeting prostate tumor xenografts identified molecules with a C-terminal arginine that allowed for cellular uptake. The C-end peptides bound NRP1, which is overexpressed in some cancers. In mice, the peptides delivered nanoparticles into extravascular tissues. Next steps could include testing the peptides for tumor-specific delivery of therapeutics <i>in vivo</i>. Roche's Genentech Inc. unit has an anti-NRP1 mAb in Phase I testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1338 Published online Sept. 10, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Teesalu, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 24, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0908201106 Contact: Erkki Ruoslahti, The Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ruoslahti@burnham.org Contact: Tambet Teesalu, same affiliation as above e-mail: tteesalu@burnham.org</p>