This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)	<p>SAR studies identified phosphopeptide inhibitors of STAT3 that could help treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, the lead compound had an IC_{50} value of 69 nM. Next steps include ongoing efforts to develop prodrug versions of the more potent inhibitors and testing them in human tumor xenograft models.</p> <p>Reata Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s bardoxolone methyl, a STAT3 inhibitor, is in clinical testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1375 Published online Sept. 17, 2009</p>	Composition- of-matter patent application filed for the compounds; available for licensing	<p>Mandal, P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 3, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm901105k</p> <p>Contact: John McMurray, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: jmcmurra@mdanderson.org</p>