This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Lung cancer	Prominin 1 (PROM1; CD133)	<p>Studies in patient samples and in mice suggest that CD133 could be a marker for lung cancer cells that are resistant to the chemotherapeutic cisplatin. In xenograft mice, injection of tumors enriched in CD133⁺ cells led to faster and greater tumor formation than injection of tumors enriched in CD133⁻ cells. In a retrospective analysis of biopsies from lung cancer patients, tumors with higher levels of CD133⁺ correlated with a shorter time interval to patient relapse after platinum-based chemotherapy. Next steps could include developing strategies to target CD133⁺ cells in animal models of lung cancer. ICT-121, a cancer stem cell vaccine that stimulates a cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) response to CD133 from ImmunoCellular Therapeutics Ltd., is in preclinical development for brain cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1377 Published online Sept. 17, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bertolini, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 7, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0905653106</p> <p>Contact: Gabriella Sozzi, National Institute for the Study and Cure of Tumors, Milan, Italy e-mail: gabriella.sozzi@istitutotumori.mi.it</p>