This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Lung cancer; esophageal cancer	SOX2	Genetic and <i>in vitro</i> studies suggest that inhibiting SOX2 could help treat lung and esophageal squamous cell carcinomas (SCC). An analysis of patient DNA samples from esophageal and lung SCC tumors identified an amplified region on chromosome 3q26.33 that contained the SOX2 gene. In SCC cell lines containing the amplification, small hairpin RNA knockdown of SOX2 blocked proliferation. Next steps could include studies of SOX2 function in animal and tissue culture models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Bass, A. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i> ; published online Oct. 4, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.465 Contact: Matthew Meyerson, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: matthew_meyerson@dfci.harvard.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1503 Published online Oct. 15, 2009				