This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Cyclin D1 (CCND1; BCL1); epiregulin (EREG); cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1B (CDKN1B; p27; Kip1); epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR); HER2 (ERBB2; neu)	<p>A study in mice suggests that Tykerb lapatinib may be useful for preventing estrogen receptor (ER)-negative breast cancer. In a mouse model of ER-negative breast cancer, 31% of mice receiving lapatinib developed mammary tumors compared with 100% of vehicle-treated controls ($p < 0.001$). Lapatinib also decreased Bcl1 and Ereg expression and increased p27 expression compared with what was seen in vehicle-treated controls. Those levels could potentially be used as lapatinib response markers. Next steps include evaluating lapatinib in additional ER-negative mammary tumor models. The compound is already being evaluated as an adjuvant in a Phase II trial in patients with human ductal carcinoma.</p> <p>Tykerb is marketed by GlaxoSmithKline plc to treat HER2-positive breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.175 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Strecker, T.E. <i>et al. J. Natl. Cancer Inst.</i>; published online Jan. 13, 2009; doi:10.1093/jnci/djn436</p> <p>Contact: Powel H. Brown, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: pbrown@bcm.edu</p>