This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Ovarian cancer	Arrestin β 1 (ARR β 1); ARR β 2; endothelin receptor type A (EDNRA; ET $_A$ R)	A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that antagonizing ET$_A$R and inhibiting ARRβ1 signaling may be useful for preventing ovarian cancer metastasis. In mice, cancer cells expressing mutated Arrβ1 showed about a 50% decrease in metastatic potential compared with that seen in wild-type controls ($p < 0.001$). In the same model, the ET$_A$R antagonist ZD4054 significantly decreased the number of intra-abdominal metastases compared with that seen in vehicle control ($p < 0.001$). Next steps could include investigating the separate roles of ARRβ1 and ARRβ2 in ovarian cancer metastasis. ZD4054, from AstraZeneca plc, is in Phase III testing to treat prostate cancer. Xinlay atrasentan, an endothelin A receptor antagonist from Abbott Laboratories, is in Phase III testing for prostate cancer. Tracleer bosentan, a dual endothelin receptor antagonist from Actelion Ltd., is in Phase III testing for melanoma. SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.270 Published online Feb. 19, 2009	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Rosanò, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0807158106 Contact: Anna Bagnato, Regina Elena Cancer Institute, Rome, Italy e-mail: bagnato@ifo.it