This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Neutrophil elastase (ELA2; NE; ELA-2)	Studies in cell culture suggest indole-3-carbinol (I3C) may be useful for treating and preventing elastase-associated drug resistance in cancer. In human breast adenocarcinoma cells, I3C inhibited cyclin E processing and increased cell cycle arrest. A small interfering RNA targeting ELA-2 mimicked the effects of I3C on cyclin E processing and cell cycle arrest, suggesting that I3C is an ELA-2 inhibitor. Next steps include <i>in vivo</i> studies to link I3C-mediated elastase inhibition with tumor growth arrest.	Multiple patents cover the use of I3C derivatives as anticancer agents; licensed to Berkeley BioSciences Inc.	Nguyen, H.-H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 1, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0806581105 Contact: Gary L. Firestone, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: glfire@berkeley.edu
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