This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Mucin 1 (MUC1; CD227)	<p>A database analysis suggests that blocking overexpression of MUC1 could help prevent tamoxifen resistance in estrogen receptor (ER)-positive breast cancers. Tamoxifen-treated patients overexpressing a MUC1-induced lipid metabolism gene signature had a significantly higher risk of death and recurrence of metastasis than patients not overexpressing the signature. Next steps could include screening for inhibitors of MUC1. Tamoxifen is a generic ER antagonist marketed to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>At least four companies are developing cancer therapeutics targeting MUC1 that are in development stages ranging from preclinical to Phase II.</p> <p>SciBX 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.480 Published online March 26, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Pitroda, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 16, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812029106</p> <p>Contact: Ralph R. Weichselbaum, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: rrw@radonc.bsd.uchicago.edu</p>