This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Bone metastases	Tubulin	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a conjugate consisting of hydroxypropyl methacrylamide, paclitaxel and alendronate could treat bone metastases. <i>In vitro</i>, the conjugate bound to a bone tissue mimic via the alendronate component of the conjugate. Also <i>in vitro</i>, the conjugate inhibited proliferation of human prostate cells and blocked formation of angiogenic structures. Next steps could include testing the conjugate in animal models to investigate tissue specificity and tumor accumulation.</p> <p>At least 15 companies have paclitaxel compounds in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.568 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Miller, K. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.</i>; published online March 17, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200805133</p> <p>Contact: Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel e-mail: ronitsf@post.tau.ac.il</p>