This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN)	Polyamine transport	An SAR study characterized a series of lipophilic lysine-spermine conjugates as polyamine transport inhibitors that could help treat SCCHN in combination with eflornithine (DFMO), a polyamine biosynthesis inhibitor. Cancer cells can overcome the action of polyamine biosynthesis inhibitors by importing polyamines from external sources. In a mouse model of squamous cell carcinoma, one of the conjugates plus DFMO resulted in substantially fewer visible tumors six weeks after treatment compared with what was seen using either agent alone. Next steps include toxicology and pharmacokinetic studies. SkinMedica Inc. markets Vaniqa eflornithine to decrease the growth of unwanted facial hair in women.	Polyamine transport inhibitors patented by MediQuest Therapeutics Inc.; exclusively licensed to Aminex Therapeutics Inc.	Burns, M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 12, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801580w Contact: Mark R. Burns, Aminex Therapeutics Inc., Seattle, Wash. e-mail: markburns@aminextherapeutics.com
SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.575 Published online April 9, 2009				