This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Fyn-related kinase (FRK; RAK); phosphatase and tensin homolog deleted on chromosome ten (PTEN; MMAC1; TEP1)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that increasing RAK levels could help treat breast cancer. Mice receiving <i>RAK</i>-overexpressing breast cancer cells failed to form tumors at eight weeks. All mice receiving <i>RAK</i>-deficient mammary epithelial cells developed tumors at three weeks, whereas mice receiving <i>RAK</i>-expressing control cells did not. Cell-culture studies showed that RAK phosphorylated and increased the stability of the tumor suppressor PTEN. Next steps include ongoing screening for compounds that increase PTEN protein stability in cancer cells.</p> <p>SciBX 2(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.611 Published online April 16, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Yim, E.-Y. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online April 6, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.02.012</p> <p>Contact: Shiaw-Yih Lin, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: sylin@mdanderson.org</p>