This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Estrogen receptor- β (ESR2); hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF); nitric oxide synthase 3 (endothelial cell) (NOS3; eNOS)	<p>A study in patient samples suggests that eNOS, ESR2 and HIF could be prognostic biomarkers of aggressive prostate cancer. In patients with a poor prostate cancer prognosis, tissue samples showed higher levels of HIF, eNOS and ESR2 than samples from patients with a good prognosis. Higher expression of any one of the proteins was also associated with decreased survival. Next steps include confirming the findings in larger patient cohorts.</p> <p>Fareston toremifene, a nonsteroidal selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM) from Orion Corp., GTx Inc. and Ipsen Group, is in Phase III testing to treat prostate cancer.</p> <p>Modrenal trilostane, an ESR2 agonist and estrogen receptor-α allosteric inhibitor from Genzyme Corp., is in Phase II testing for prostate cancer.</p> <p>At least five companies have compounds targeting HIF1 in Phase II or earlier to treat cancer.</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status unavailable	<p>Nanni, S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 13, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI35079</p> <p>Contact: Antonella Farsetti, Regina Elena Cancer Institute, Rome, Italy e-mail: afarsetti@gmail.com</p>
<p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.657 Published online April 23, 2009</p>				