This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Carcinoembryonic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 6 (CEACAM6)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that inhibiting CEACAM6 could help boost the efficacy of oncolytic adenovirus-based therapies. In a panel of eight cancer cell lines, all four adenovirus-sensitive lines had undetectable CEACAM6 expression, whereas three of four insensitive cell lines showed high CEACAM6 expression ($p=0.0004$). In a mouse xenograft model of adenovirus-insensitive human pancreatic cancer, small interfering RNA knockdown of CEACAM6 plus an oncolytic adenovirus significantly increased survival compared with that seen in controls ($p<0.05$). Next steps include developing inhibitors of CEACAM6 signaling and identifying additional targets in CEACAM6-associated pathways. Oncorine, a modified oncolytic adenovirus type 5 from Shanghai Sunway Biotech Co. Ltd., is marketed for head and neck cancer in China. At least nine other companies have oncolytic virus-based therapies in Phase II or earlier for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.779 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Patented as a biomarker for patient stratification and for increasing efficacy of adenovirus-based therapies; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Wang, Y. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 1, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI37905</p> <p>Contact: Nick Lemoine, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, London, U.K. e-mail: nick.lemoine@cancer.org.uk</p> <p>Contact: Yaohe Wang, same affiliation as above e-mail: yaohe.wang@cancer.org.uk</p>