This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Not applicable	<p>Studies in human cell cultures suggest that a new scaffold could treat breast and other cancers. Two synthetic derivatives of the natural product neo-tanshinlactone had low micromolar potencies against estrogen receptor-positive and HER2 (ERBB2)-positive breast cancer cell lines. A third analog also had micromolar potency against lung and prostate cancer cell lines. Results of follow-on studies will be reported in an upcoming publication. Yondelis trabectedin, a natural product cytotoxic alkaloid from PharmaMar S.A. and partner Johnson & Johnson, is in Phase III testing to treat metastatic breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.820 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Dong, Y. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 8, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9001567</p> <p>Contact: Kuo-Hsiung Lee, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: khlee@unc.edu</p> <p>Contact: Kenneth F. Bastow, same affiliation as above e-mail: ken_bastow@unc.edu</p> <p>Contact: Qian Shi, same affiliation as above e-mail: qshi1@email.unc.edu</p>