This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Galectin-1 (LGALS1); LGALS3; LGALS7; LGALS9	<p>Binding assays and cell culture studies identified thiodigalactoside ester derivatives that inhibit cancer-related galectins and may be useful for preventing cancer metastasis. The assays showed 7-fold to 70-fold improved binding affinity for LGALS1, LGALS3, LGALS7 and LGALS9 compared with that seen for thiodigalactoside but showed no improvement for LGALS8. In human non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) or hormone-refractory prostate cancer cell lines, galectin inhibitors lowered cell motility compared with that seen in untreated controls. Next steps include evaluating the galectin inhibitors <i>in vivo</i> and improving their pharmacokinetics.</p> <p>Salirasib, a competitive Ras antagonist binding galectin from Champions Biotechnology Inc. and Concordia Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.86 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	<p>Multiple patents and patent applications cover the structure of the molecules and their use in cancer and inflammation; available for licensing from the Lund University Technology Group</p> <p>Contact: Lund University Technology Group, Lund, Sweden e-mail: info@forskarpatent.com</p>	<p>Delaine, T. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Nov. 21, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm801077j</p> <p>Contact: Ulf J. Nilsson, Lund University, Lund, Sweden e-mail: ulf.nilsson@organic.lu.se</p> <p>Contact: Hakon Leffler, same affiliation as above e-mail: hakon.leffler@med.lu.se</p> <p>Contact: Robert Kiss, Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium e-mail: rkiss@ulb.ac.be</p>