This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	v-crk sarcoma virus CT10 oncogene homolog (avian)-like (CRKL); integrin β_1	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that targeting CRKL could help treat cancer. In prostate cancer xenograft mice, a peptide was identified that homed to tumors and had homology to an integrin β_1 domain. In a binding assay, that peptide bound CRKL. <i>In vitro</i> studies showed that prostate cancer cells secreted CRKL and that CRKL-integrin β_1 signaling at the cell surface played a role in tumor cell proliferation, adhesion and migration. Finally, studies in xenograft-bearing mice showed that inhibition of Crkl with a peptide mimetic of the integrin β_1 regulatory domain slowed tumor growth. Ongoing studies are exploring the CRKL-integrin β_1 interaction for the development of cancer therapies and imaging agents.</p> <p>At least nine companies have compounds targeting integrins in preclinical and early-stage trials to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.87 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	Patented by The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; unavailable for licensing	<p>Mintz, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 12, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0807543105</p> <p>Contact: Renata Pasqualini, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: rpasqual@mdanderson.org</p> <p>Contact: Wadih Arap, same affiliation as above e-mail: warap@mdanderson.org</p>