This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	RAS p21 protein activator (GTPase activating protein) 1 (RASA1; RASGAP); HIV Tat protein	<p>Studies in mice suggest that a protease-resistant version of a cell-permeable fusion peptide could improve the efficacy of chemotherapeutics.</p> <p>Pharmacokinetic analyses in mice with human colon cancer xenografts showed that a non-natural D-version of a cell-permeable fusion peptide consisting of the Tat protein and portions of RASGAP was stable and penetrated tumors. In a mouse model of colon cancer, the peptide in combination with either cisplatin or doxorubicin led to fewer and smaller tumors than the peptide or the drugs alone. The peptide was safe. Next steps could include testing the strategy in other cancer models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.903 Published online June 4, 2009</p>	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Michod, D. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Natl. Cancer Inst.</i>; published online May 26, 2009; doi:10.1093/jnci/djp100</p> <p>Contact: Christian Widmann, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland e-mail: christian.widmann@unil.ch</p>