This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Smoothened (SMO)	Studies in mice suggest that depleting tumor-associated stromal tissue during pancreatic cancer chemotherapy could increase the efficiency of drug delivery. In a mouse model of refractory pancreatic cancer, IPI-926 plus Gemzar gemcitabine depleted tumor-associated stromal tissue by inhibiting Hedgehog signaling through Smo. The combination therapy also increased vascular function of tumors, decreased tumor size and increased survival time compared with treatment using either agent alone. Ongoing studies are investigating whether IPI-926 increases the efficacy of other chemotherapy agents to treat pancreatic cancer. IPI-926, a Hedgehog pathway inhibitor from Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors. Eli Lilly and Co. markets the DNA synthesis inhibitor Gemzar to treat pancreatic cancer, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and other cancers. SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.906 Published online June 4, 2009	Patent and licensing status unavailable Contact: Josie Gray, Cancer Research UK, London, U.K. e-mail: josie.gray@cancer.org.uk	Olive, K. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online May 21, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1171362 Contact: David A. Tuveson, Cancer Research UK, London, U.K. e-mail: david.tuveson@cancer.org.uk