This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	TNF receptor-associated factor 6 (TRAF6)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that metformin and other compounds targeting fatty acid oxidation could help boost cancer vaccine efficacy. In mice, vaccination using a cancer antigen plus metformin increased survival following tumor challenge compared with the antigen plus a saline buffer. Additional <i>in vitro</i> and mouse studies showed that the survival improvement was mediated by enhanced TRAF6 activity and increased numbers of CD8 ⁺ memory T cells. Next steps include evaluating further therapeutic applications of fatty acid metabolism-altering drugs and their interplay with the T cell response. Metformin is a generic diabetes drug.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Pearce, E. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online June 3, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08097 Contact: Yongwon Choi, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: ychoi3@mail.med.upenn.edu
SciBX 2(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.974 Published online June 18, 2009				