This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Methionine sulfoxide reductase A (MSRA); VEGF; phosphatase and tensin homolog deleted on chromosome ten (PTEN; MMAC1; TEP1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that agonizing MSRA could help treat breast cancer. MSRA expression was downregulated in over 80% of primary breast cancer samples tested compared with expression in normal breast tissue. In a human breast cancer cell line, MSRA knockdown increased cell invasiveness and VEGF expression and lowered levels of the tumor suppressor PTEN compared with those in unmodified controls. In mice with xenograft breast tumors, MSRA knockdown tumors grew faster than those expressing MSRA normally. Planned studies include identifying and testing MSRA agonists <i>in vitro</i> and in animal models of breast cancer.	Unpatented; available for licensing or partnering	De Luca, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Oct. 11, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1010171107 Contact: Bartolo Favalaro, G. d'Annunzio University, Chieti, Italy e-mail: b.favalaro@unich.it
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