This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Ovarian cancer	p21 protein (Cdc42 Rac)- activated kinase 4 (PAK4)	Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest that PAK4 could be a marker and target for ovarian cancer. In patient ovarian tumor tissue samples, PAK4 levels were greater than those in benign cysts. In xenograft mice, implantation of ovarian cancer cells transfected with PAK4 short hairpin RNA led to less tumor growth and dissemination than implantation of cells transfected with a control vector. Next steps include developing compounds that target PAK4. SciBX 3(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1231 Published online Oct. 21, 2010	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Siu, M.K.Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Oct. 4, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0907481107 Contact: Annie N.Y. Cheung, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China e-mail: anycheun@hkucc.hku.hk