This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Tubulin	<p>A study in cell culture identified a paclitaxel-Factor VIIa conjugate that could help treat cancer. Paclitaxel was conjugated to Factor VIIa using a peptide-based chloromethyl ketone linker. In paclitaxel-sensitive and paclitaxel-resistant human head and neck cancer cells, the conjugate reduced cell viability with IC₅₀ values of 12 and 130 nM, respectively. The conjugate had less toxicity against human umbilical vein endothelial cells than did free paclitaxel. Next steps could include evaluating the conjugated paclitaxel in animal cancer models. Taxol paclitaxel, a promoter of microtubule stabilization from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is marketed to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.462 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ndungu, J.M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 19, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm901763f</p> <p>Contact: Aiming Sun, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: asun2@emory.edu</p> <p>Contact: Mamoru Shoji, same affiliation as above e-mail: mshoji@emory.edu</p>