This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Not applicable	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting the nonsense mediated decay (NMD) mechanism could help treat cancer and prevent metastasis. NMD is a process that prevents the expression of defective mRNAs and thus the accumulation of mutated or otherwise aberrant proteins in cells. In mice, colon cancer cells expressing small interfering RNA against NMD factors exhibited less tumor growth than cells expressing control siRNA. In mice with subcutaneous prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA; FOLH1; GCP11)-expressing tumors, treatment with NMD factor-specific siRNAs conjugated to an aptamer specific for PSMA led to a decrease in tumor growth and lung metastasis compared with treatment using a control siRNA-PSMA aptamer conjugate. Next steps include developing next-generation siRNA conjugates and their human versions.</p> <p>SciBX 3(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.615 Published online May 20, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	<p>Pastor, F. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online May 12, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature08999</p> <p>Contact: Eli Gilboa, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Fla. e-mail: egilboa@med.miami.edu</p>