This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Unknown	<p>A study in cell culture identified 12 small molecule bacteriochlorins that could be useful as photosensitizing agents in photodynamic cancer therapy. In a human cervical cancer cell line, the bacteriochlorins increased photodynamic therapy-induced death compared with no treatment, with LD₅₀ values of 15–4,000 nM. The compounds were taken up by the cells and had low toxicity under dark conditions. Next steps include evaluating the bacteriochlorins in animal cancer models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.617 Published online May 20, 2010</p>	Work covered by multiple issued patents; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Huang, Y.-Y. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 4, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm901908s</p> <p>Contact: Michael R. Hamblin, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: hamblin@helix.mgh.harvard.edu</p>