This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	α -Lactalbumin (LALBA)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that a LALBA-based vaccine could help prevent breast cancer. LALBA is expressed during lactation in normal breast epithelial cells but is also highly expressed in many breast tumors. A Lalba-based vaccine prevented breast tumorigenesis in two mouse models of breast cancer and reduced tumor growth in two additional models of established breast cancer compared with vehicle control. Ongoing work includes <i>in vitro</i> studies of human T cell responses to LALBA and optimizing the vaccine. Oncothyreon Inc. and Merck KGaA's Stimuvax, a liposomal vaccine containing a synthetic 25-amino-acid peptide sequence from mucin 1 (MUC1; CD227), is in Phase III testing to treat locally advanced, recurrent or metastatic breast cancer and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Apthera Inc.'s NeuVax (E75), a vaccine consisting of an immunogenic peptide derived from HER2 (ERBB2; neu) protein and sargramostim, is in Phase II/III testing to treat early-stage, HER2-positive breast cancer and Phase I/II testing to treat HER2-positive prostate cancer. Genex Biotechnology Corp.'s AE37, a peptide vaccine containing Ii-Key-modified HER2 protein fragment, is in Phase II testing to treat breast cancer recurrence.</p> <p>SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.697 Published online June 10, 2010</p>	Unpatented; available for partnering	<p>Jaini, R. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online May 30, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2161 Contact: Vincent Tuohy, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: tuohyv@ccf.org</p>