This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Cysteine protease	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a yeast-derived cysteine protease inhibitor could help treat or prevent cancer metastases. Bioassays of <i>Streptomyces spp.</i> broth identified a combination of two pentapeptides (CPI-2081) that inhibited the cysteine protease papain at low nanomolar concentrations. In cellular models of metastasis, CPI-2081 inhibited the migration of human breast cancer and melanoma cell lines compared with vehicle control. Ongoing and planned work includes chemical synthesis of CPI-2081 and testing the compound in animal models of cancer metastasis.	Patent application filed by the National Chemical Laboratory and the National Centre for Cell Science; licensing status undisclosed	Singh, J.P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 16, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm9014179 Contact: Mohamad I. Khan, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, India e-mail: mi.khan@ncl.res.in Contact: P.R. Rajamohanam, same affiliation as above e-mail: pr.rajamohanam@ncl.res.in
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