This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Ovarian cancer	Salt-inducible kinase 2 (SIK2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting SIK2 could help increase the sensitivity of ovarian tumors to taxane-based chemotherapy. In cultured ovarian cancer cells, as compared with control-transfected cells, anti-SIK2 small interfering RNA decreased the dose of paclitaxel needed to inhibit cell growth. In ovarian cancer mouse xenografts, siRNA knockdown of SIK2 increased tumor cell sensitivity to paclitaxel and decreased tumor volume compared with those seen using a nontargeting siRNA plus paclitaxel. In 59 ovarian cancer samples, SIK2 expression correlated with poor clinical outcome and paclitaxel resistance. Next steps include identifying a SIK2 inhibitor.</p> <p>Paclitaxel is a generic taxane.</p> <p>SciBX 3(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.984 Published online Aug. 19, 2010</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Ahmed, A.A. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online Aug. 16, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2010.06.018</p> <p>Contact: Robert C. Bast Jr., The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: rbast@mdanderson.org</p> <p>Contact: Ahmed Ashour Ahmed, same affiliation as above e-mail: ahmed.ahmed@obs-gyn.ox.ac.uk</p>