This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Matrix metalloproteinase 9 (MMP9)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest MMP9 inhibitors could help prevent chemotherapy-induced metastases. In cancer cell lines, plasma from paclitaxel-treated mice increased MMP9 levels, cell migration and invasive activity compared with plasma from vehicle-treated controls. In normal mice injected with cancer cells, pretreatment with paclitaxel increased lung metastases compared with vehicle pretreatment. In the same model, pretreatment with paclitaxel plus an MMP9 inhibitor decreased lung metastases and increased survival compared with pretreatment using paclitaxel, an MMP9 inhibitor or vehicle alone. Ongoing studies include identifying other mechanisms by which chemotherapies contribute to tumor metastasis.</p> <p>SciBX 4(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1171 Published online Oct. 27, 2011</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing or partnering	<p>Gingis-Velitski, S. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Oct. 6, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-0629 Contact: Yuval Shaked, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel e-mail: yshaked@tx.technion.ac.il</p>