This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Unknown	<p>A cell culture study identified an autophagy inhibitor—spautin-1—that could help treat cancer. In mouse fibroblast cells, the small molecule inhibited starvation-induced autophagy, a cancer-related stress survival pathway, compared with vehicle. In human breast cancer cells, spautin-1 reduced starvation-induced autophagy and increased apoptosis compared with vehicle. Next steps include collaborating with Roche and BioBay to explore the potential of spautin-1 as a cancer therapeutic.</p> <p>SciBX 4(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1173 Published online Oct. 27, 2011</p>	Patent application filed covering targets, methods of screening and treatment, and composition of matter; partnered with Roche and BioBay	<p>Liu, J. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Sept. 30, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2011.08.037 Contact: Junying Yuan, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jyuan@hms.harvard.edu Contact: Dawei Ma, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China e-mail: madw@mail.sioc.ac.cn</p>