This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer; colorectal cancer; melanoma; non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	StAR-related lipid transfer domain containing 9 (STARD9)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest inhibiting STARD9 could help treat cancer. In human cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, NSCLC and melanoma cell lines, <i>STARD9</i> small interfering RNA increased mitotic arrest and apoptosis compared with scrambled control siRNA. Also in the cervical cancer cell line, <i>STARD9</i> siRNA plus the generic chemotherapeutic paclitaxel had a synergistic effect on apoptosis compared with either agent alone. Planned studies include examining the effects of <i>Stard9</i> knockout in mouse models of cancer.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Torres, J.Z. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online Dec. 9, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2011.11.020 Contact: Jorge Z. Torres, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: torres@chem.ucla.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 4(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1349 Published online Dec. 15, 2011				