This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase (UROD)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting UROD could help increase the sensitivity of cancer to radiation therapy. In several human cancer cell types, anti-UROD small interfering RNA increased radiosensitivity compared with control siRNA. In irradiated xenograft mice, UROD siRNA-treated head and neck cancer cells had delayed tumor growth compared with control siRNA-treated cancer cells. Ongoing studies include designing small molecules and siRNA against UROD and determining the enzyme's role as a diagnostic or prognostic biomarker.	Patent application filed for therapeutic and diagnostic applications; available for licensing	Ito, E. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Jan. 26, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001922 Contact: Fei-Fei Liu, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: fei-fei.liu@rmp.uhn.on.ca Contact: Emma Ito, same affiliation as above e-mail: emma.ito@uhnres.utoronto.ca
		<i>SciBX</i> 4(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.158 Published online Feb. 10, 2011		