This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Serine peptidase inhibitor Kazal type 1 (SPINK1); epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting SPINK1 could help treat a subset of prostate cancers. SPINK1 is upregulated in about 10% of prostate cancer cases and shares roughly 50% sequence homology with epidermal growth factor (EGF). In mice implanted with SPINK1⁺ human prostate cancer cells, injection of SPINK1 or EGFR mAbs lowered tumor volume compared with injection of control mAb. Next steps include developing additional SPINK1 antibodies and testing them in preclinical mouse models. SciBX 4(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.312 Published online March 17, 2011	Patent application filed covering SPINK1 as a biomarker for prostate cancer and as a therapeutic target; diagnostic use licensed to Gen-Probe Inc.; therapeutic use available for licensing	Ateeq, B. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 2, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001498 Contact: Arul M. Chinnaiyan, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: arul@umich.edu