This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Chemokine CC motif ligand 18 (CCL18); phosphatidylinositol transfer protein membrane-associated family member 3 (PITPNM3)	<p>Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest that inhibiting CCL18 or its receptor, PITPNM3, could help treat breast cancer. In breast cancer patients, high levels of serum CCL18 correlated with increased metastasis. Also, greater numbers of CCL18-positive, tumor-associated macrophages correlated with decreased survival. In mice with breast cancer, intratumoral injection of recombinant CCL18 increased metastasis and lowered survival compared with injection of vehicle control. That effect was reduced in mice with tumors expressing PITPNM3 small hairpin RNA. Next steps include identifying small molecules or antibodies that disrupt the CCL18-PITPNM3 interaction.</p> <p>SciBX 4(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.478 Published online April 28, 2011</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Chen, J. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online April 12, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2011.02.006</p> <p>Contact: Xuebiao Yao, University of Science and Technology of China, Anhui, China e-mail: yaoxb@ustc.edu.cn</p> <p>Contact: Erwei Song, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China e-mail: songerwei02@yahoo.com.cn</p>