This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Phosphoinositide 3-kinase- β (PI3K β); HER2 (EGFR2; ERBB2; neu); prostate-specific antigen (KLK3; PSA)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a peptide-PI3K β inhibitor conjugate could help treat HER2-expressing prostate cancer. The PI3K β inhibitor was linked to a HER2-targeting peptide that was cleavable by PSA. <i>In vitro</i> , the conjugate was more soluble at physiological pH and had greater uptake by human prostate cancer cell lines than the free PI3K β inhibitor. In prostate cancer cell lines, the conjugate had similar cytotoxic activity to free PI3K β inhibitor. Ongoing work includes testing the conjugate in animal models of prostate cancer. Exelixis Inc. and sanofi-aventis Group have selective PI3K β /PI3K α inhibitors in preclinical testing to treat cancer. SciBX 4(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.512 Published online May 5, 2011	Patented by the University of Missouri-Kansas City; available for licensing	Tai, W. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i> ; published online April 21, 2011; doi:10.1021/mp200007b Contact: Kun Cheng, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo. e-mail: chengkun@umkc.edu