This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Ubiquitin specific peptidase 4 (USP4)	Cell culture and patient samples suggest that inhibiting USP4 could help increase the efficacy of chemotherapy. In a human colorectal cancer cell line, small hairpin RNA knockdown of USP4 increased sensitivity to doxorubicin or etoposide compared with what was seen using a control vector. In patient samples, <i>USP4</i> levels were higher in 12 of 14 types of cancer than in matched normal tissues. Next steps include studying the functional role of USP4 in tumorigenesis and developing small molecule USP4 inhibitors.	Work unpatented; available for licensing	Zhang, X. <i>et al. EMBO J.</i> ; published online April 26, 2011; doi:10.1038/emboj.2011.125 Contact: Xiongbin Lu, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: xlu2@mdanderson.org
<i>SciBX</i> 4(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.537 Published online May 12, 2011				