This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL); tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand receptor 1 (TRAIL-R1); TRAIL-R2	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest lapatinib could increase the efficacy of TRAIL receptor agonists in colorectal cancer. In human colon cancer cells, lapatinib increased apoptosis induced by TRAIL or antibody agonists of TRAIL-R1 or TRAIL-R2 compared with vehicle. In a mouse xenograft model of human colon cancer, lapatinib plus TRAIL reduced tumor growth compared with either agent alone ($p < 0.05$). Next steps could include testing the combination in additional animal models. GlaxoSmithKline plc markets Tykerb lapatinib to treat breast cancer. Human Genome Sciences Inc. and AstraZeneca plc are developing mapatumumab, an agonist antibody of TRAIL-R1 that is in Phase II testing for liver cancer and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and Phase I/II for cervical cancer. SciBX 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.765 Published online July 14, 2011	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Dolloff, N.G. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online June 8, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001384 Contact: Wafik S. El-Deiry, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: weldeiry@hmc.psu.edu