This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	MAP kinase kinase kinase 7 (MAP3K7; TAK1)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest inhibiting TAK1 could help sensitize pancreatic cancer to chemotherapy. In human pancreatic cancer cell lines, small hairpin RNA-mediated TAK1 knockdown increased sensitivity to chemotherapeutics compared with that seen using scrambled shRNA. In a mouse model of human pancreatic cancer, a small molecule TAK1 inhibitor plus Gemzar gemcitabine decreased tumor volume and increased survival compared with either compound alone. Next steps could include evaluating the effects and toxicity of TAK1 inhibition in additional mouse models of pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co. markets Gemzar to treat multiple cancers including pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.826 Published online July 28, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Melisi, D. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Natl. Cancer Inst.</i>; published online July 8, 2011; doi:10.1093/jnci/djr243 Contact: Davide Melisi, National Institute for the Study and Treatment of Cancer-Pascale Foundation, Naples, Italy e-mail: d.melisi@istitutotumori.na.it Contact: Paul J. Chiao, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: davide.melisi@gmail.com</p>