This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphosphate-dependent Rac exchange factor 1 (PREX1)	Studies in patient samples and in mice suggest that inhibiting <i>PREX1</i> could help treat breast cancer. In 165 patient biopsy samples, 96 stained positive for <i>PREX1</i> expression, whereas none of the 10 normal control samples showed detectable expression. In a xenograft mouse model of human breast cancer, small hairpin RNA-mediated knockdown of <i>PREX1</i> prevented tumor formation compared with that seen using a control shRNA. Next steps could include identifying and evaluating compounds that block <i>PREX1</i> signaling in breast cancer models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Sosa, M.S. <i>et al. Mol. Cell</i> ; published online Dec. 22, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2010.11.029 Contact: Marcelo G. Kazanietz, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: marcelog@upenn.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 4(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.97 Published online Jan. 27, 2011				