This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)	<p>Cell culture and patient studies suggest patients with colorectal cancer (CRC) who become resistant to Erbitux cetuximab as a result of an S492R EGFR mutation may respond to Vectibix panitumumab. In S492R EGFR-mutant CRC cell lines, Vectibix blocked receptor activation, whereas Erbitux did not. In 10 patients with CRC who had disease progression while receiving Erbitux, 2 had an S492R EGFR mutation that was not present prior to treatment and 1 subsequently responded to Vectibix. Next steps could include conducting a prospective clinical trial to assess S492R EGFR as a marker for Vectibix treatment in CRC and determining if the mutation contributes to Erbitux resistance in additional cancers.</p> <p>Erbitux, a mAb targeting EGFR from Eli Lilly and Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Merck KGaA, is marketed to treat colorectal cancer and head and neck cancer.</p> <p>Vectibix, a mAb against EGFR1 (HER1; ERBB1) from Amgen Inc. and Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., is marketed to treat colorectal cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.174 Published online Feb. 16, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Montagut, C. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 22, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2609</p> <p>Contact: Joan Albanell, Hospital del Mar, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: jalbanell@hospitaldelmar.cat</p> <p>Contact: Clara Montagut, same affiliation as above e-mail: cmontagut@hospitaldelmar.cat</p>