This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	c-Met receptor tyrosine kinase (MET; c-Met; HGFR); VEGF	<p>Studies in mice suggest inhibiting both c-Met and VEGF signaling could help treat cancer by preventing anti-VEGF-induced tumor invasion and metastasis. In mouse models of pancreatic cancer, an anti-VEGF antibody or a small molecule inhibitor of VEGF signaling actually increased invasion and metastasis compared with vehicle control. In the same mice, a combination of anti-VEGF therapy plus either a small molecule inhibitor of c-Met or the small molecule cabozantinib, which inhibits VEGF signaling and c-Met, decreased tumor invasion and metastasis compared with anti-VEGF treatment alone. Next steps include developing additional mouse models to study tumor invasion and metastasis.</p> <p>Exelixis Inc. has submitted a rolling NDA to the FDA for cabozantinib (XL184) to treat medullary thyroid cancer. The small molecule is in Phase II trials for various cancers.</p> <p>At least 12 other companies have c-Met inhibitors in Phase III testing or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.250 Published online March 8, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Sennino, B. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online Feb. 24, 2012; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-11-0240</p> <p>Contact: Donald M. McDonald, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: donald.mcdonald@ucsf.edu</p>