This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Esophageal cancer	Glioma-associated oncogene homolog 1 zinc finger protein (GLI1); mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1); ribosomal protein S6 kinase 70 kDa polypeptide 1 (RPS6KB1; S6K1)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest combining an mTOR inhibitor with a hedgehog pathway inhibitor could help improve treatment of esophageal cancer. In a mouse xenograft model of human esophageal cancer, the mTOR inhibitor Afinitor everolimus plus the hedgehog pathway inhibitor Erivedge vismodegib decreased tumor growth more than either compound alone. Next steps include a clinical trial of the combination therapy in esophageal cancer.</p> <p>Erivedge, a small molecule smoothened (SMO) antagonist from Roche's Genentech Inc. unit and Curis Inc., is approved to treat advanced basal cell carcinoma (BCC).</p> <p>Novartis AG markets Afinitor to treat multiple cancers and to prevent transplant rejection.</p> <p>SciBX 5(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.362 Published online April 5, 2012</p>	Provisional patent application filed covering use in multiple cancers; available for licensing from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Office of Technology Commercialization	<p>Wang, Y. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online March 20, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2011.12.028</p> <p>Contact: Mien-Chie Hung, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas</p> <p>e-mail: mhung@mdanderson.org</p>