This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Hyaluronan	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting hyaluronan could help treat pancreatic cancer. In human and mouse pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDA) tumors, hyaluronan levels were greater than those in healthy pancreatic tissues. In 3D murine PDA tumor cell matrices, the hyaluronan inhibitor PEGPH20 decreased interstitial fluid pressure and increased tumor vasculature function and small molecule delivery to the tumor compared with no treatment. In a mouse PDA model, the chemotherapeutic gemcitabine plus PEGPH20 was more effective at lowering tumor growth than gemcitabine alone. Ongoing work includes clinical testing of PEGPH20 to treat cancer. Halozyme Therapeutics Inc.'s PEGPH20 is in Phase II testing to treat pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.364 Published online April 5, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Provenzano, P.P. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online March 20, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2012.01.007 Contact: Sunil R. Hingorani, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: srh@fhcrc.org</p>