This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Mucin 1 (MUC1; CD227)	<p>Mouse studies suggest an immunotherapy based on a MUC1 glycopeptide could help treat breast cancer. In a mouse model of breast cancer with aberrant MUC1 glycosylation, a vaccine composed of a cancer-associated MUC1 glycopeptide linked with an adjuvant and a T cell epitope led to less tumor growth than a vaccine in which the three components were unlinked. Next steps include optimizing the T cell response elicited by the vaccine, followed by a Phase Ia trial.</p> <p>Oncothyreon Inc.'s MUC1-based vaccines, Stimuvax and ONT-10, are in Phase III testing for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and preclinical testing for cancer, respectively. Bavarian Nordic A/S's CV-301, a vaccine targeting carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) and MUC1, is in Phase II testing for breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.65 Published online Jan. 19, 2012</p>	<p>Patents pending; some aspects available for licensing; Viamune Inc., a company founded by Geert-Jan Boons, has an option to license the technology for cancer vaccine applications</p>	<p>Lakshminarayanan, V. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 14, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1115166109</p> <p>Contact: Geert-Jan Boons, The University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. e-mail: gjboons@ccrc.uga.edu</p> <p>Contact: Sandra J. Gendler, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Scottsdale, Ariz. e-mail: gendler.sandra@mayo.edu</p>