This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Nerve growth factor (NGF)	<p>Cell culture and patient tissue studies suggest pro-NGF could be antagonized to treat breast cancer. NGF is typically proteolytically cleaved from an intracellular pro form to a secreted form. In breast cancer tumor biopsies, pro-NGF was overexpressed in malignant tumor tissue compared with benign tumor or normal tissue. In a breast cancer cell line, small interfering RNA against pro-NGF decreased invasiveness compared with siRNA controls. Next steps could include testing antibodies against NGF in cell culture and animal models of breast cancer. At least five anti-NGF mAbs are in Phase II and Phase III testing for osteoarthritis and pain indications.</p> <p>SciBX 5(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.66 Published online Jan. 19, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Demont, Y. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Nov. 29, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.M110.211714 Contact: Hubert Hondermarck, University of Lille, Lille, France e-mail: hubert.hondermarck@univ-lille1.fr</p>