This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Solute carrier family 7 member 11 cystine glutamate transporter (SLC7A11; xCT)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest xCT inhibitors could help treat a subset of triple-negative breast cancers. In a panel of 46 breast cancer cell lines, metabolic analysis identified a subset of triple-negative cells that were dependent on glutamine. In cultured breast cancer cells, inhibition of the glutamine-dependent xCT by small interfering RNA knockdown or Azulfidine sulfasalazine increased oxidative stress compared with no inhibition. In glutamine-dependent breast cancer cells and in mouse xenograft models, sulfasalazine decreased growth compared with saline. Next steps could include developing improved xCT inhibitors derived from sulfasalazine.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets Azulfidine sulfasalazine to treat inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>SciBX 6(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1216 Published online Nov. 7, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Timmerman, L.A. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online Oct. 3, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.08.020</p> <p>Contact: Luika A. Timmerman, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: timmerma@cc.ucsf.edu</p>