This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Liver cancer	Glypican 3 (GPC3)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified an anti-GPC3 antibody that could help treat hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). In human HCC cell lines, an antibody against a core functional portion of GPC3 inhibited growth of GPC3⁺ HCC cells but not GPC3⁻ or GPC3 knockout cells. In a mouse xenograft model for HCC, the antibody decreased tumor growth compared with control antibodies. Next steps include completing preclinical testing.</p> <p>Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Roche have the anti-GPC3 antibody GC33 in Phase II testing to treat liver cancer.</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. has the anti-GPC3 antibody MDX-1414 in preclinical development for the same indication.</p> <p>SciBX 6(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.262 Published online March 21, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Feng, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 5, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1217868110</p> <p>Contact: Mitchell Ho, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: homi@mail.nih.gov</p>