This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR)	<p>Two separate studies identified an allosteric inhibitor of FGFR that could help treat cancer. In the first study, NMR, molecular dynamics and X-ray crystallography analysis found that the small molecule SSR128129E (SSR) bound the extracellular D3 domain at a site distinct from FGFR ligand binding and acted as an allosteric inhibitor by altering FGF binding site conformation. In the second study, oral dosing of SSR decreased tumor size, tumor invasiveness and metastasis in mouse models for cancer compared with oral dosing of vehicle. In mouse models for pancreatic and colorectal cancers, SSR plus a VEGF receptor 2 (KDR/Flk-1; VEGFR-2) inhibitor decreased tumor growth better than either treatment alone.</p> <p>Next steps include clinical testing of SSR analogs. At least six selective FGFR inhibitors are in Phase II testing or earlier to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 6(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.411 Published online May 2, 2013</p>	<p>SSR and related compounds from both studies patented by Sanofi; Sanofi and the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) have a joint patent covering methods used; unavailable for licensing</p>	<p>Herbert, C. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online April 15, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.02.018 Contact: Françoise Bono, Sanofi Research and Development, Toulouse, France e-mail: francoise.bono@sanofi-aventis.com</p> <p>Contact: Harald Schwalbe, Goethe University Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany e-mail: schwalbe@nmr.uni-frankfurt.de</p> <p>Contact: Francesco Luigi Gervasio, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO), Madrid, Spain e-mail: fgervasio@cnio.es</p> <p>Bono, F. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online April 15, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.02.019 Contact: Peter Carmeliet, Catholic University Leuven, Leuven, Belgium e-mail: peter.carmeliet@vib-kuleuven.be</p>