This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Liver cancer	Calcium channel voltage-dependent α_2/δ subunit 1 (CACNA2D1)	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies suggest targeting CACNA2D1 could help treat hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). In human HCC cell lines, the mAb 1B50-1, which binds to CACNA2D1 isoform 5, selectively targeted and killed populations of tumor-initiating cells. In mouse xenograft models for HCC, 1B50-1 decreased tumor growth and the subpopulation of tumor-initiating cells compared with an IgG control. Next steps could include testing the antibody in additional models for HCC.</p> <p>SciBX 6(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.412 Published online May 2, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhao, W. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online April 15, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.02.025 Contact: Zhiqian Zhang, Peking University Cancer Hospital and Institute, Beijing, China e-mail: zlzqzhang@bjmu.edu.cn Contact: Baocai Xing, same affiliation as above e-mail: xingbaocai88@sina.com</p>