This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Tubulin	<p>A mouse study suggests photodynamic therapy (PDT) with red light-activated prodrugs could help treat cancer with fewer side effects than existing chemotherapeutics. A prodrug composed of a tubulin-binding compound linked to a photosensitizing agent was designed such that free drug would be released upon exposure to red light. In a human breast cancer cell line, the prodrug plus red light increased apoptosis compared with the prodrug alone. In a mouse model for colon cancer, prodrug plus irradiation with red light decreased tumor growth compared with prodrug or vehicle alone, without causing observable toxicity. Future studies could include synthesizing and testing prodrugs of other classes of cancer drugs.</p> <p>SciBX 6(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.491 Published online May 23, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bio, M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 30, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400139w Contact: Youngjae You, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Okla. e-mail: youngjae-you@ouhsc.edu</p>