This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Polypeptide <i>N</i> -acetylgalactosaminyltransferase (GALNT; GalNac-T)	<p>Patient sample, cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting GALNT could help treat cancer. Addition of <i>N</i>-acetylgalactosamine to proteins by GALNT has previously been shown to correlate with metastatic potential. In human breast cancer tissue arrays, levels of proteins modified by <i>N</i>-acetylgalactosamine were 4.7-fold higher in malignant tissue than in normal or benign tissue tumor cores, with 70% of GALNT from highly expressing tissue localized to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). In mouse xenograft models of metastatic lung cancer, injection of cells expressing a lectin that binds to <i>N</i>-acetylgalactosamine increased survival and decreased metastasis compared with injection of cells not expressing the lectin. Next steps include identifying substrates for GALNT in the ER.</p> <p>SciBX 6(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.855 Published online Aug. 22, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Gill, D.J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 2, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1305269110</p> <p>Contact: Frederic A. Bard, Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Proteos, Singapore e-mail: fbard@imcb.a-star.edu.sg</p>