This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Actin α 2 smooth aorta muscle (ACTA2; α -SMA)	<p>Mouse studies suggest a polyethylene glycol formulation of docetaxel conjugated to acetylated carboxymethylcellulose could help treat breast cancer. The conjugated docetaxel self-assembled into 120 nm-diameter nanoparticles, called Cellax. In an orthotopic mouse model of breast cancer, injection of Cellax decreased both the number of α-SMA-expressing stromal cells within the tumor and metastasis compared with injection of Abraxane nab-paclitaxel or native docetaxel. Next steps include manufacturing Cellax in preparation for Phase I trials.</p> <p>Celgene Corp. and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. market Abraxane to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.885 Published online Aug. 29, 2013</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from MaRS Innovation</p> <p>Contact: Parimal Nathwani, MaRS Innovation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: pnathwani@marsinnovation.com</p>	<p>Murakami, M. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Aug. 1, 2013; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-0062</p> <p>Contact: Shyh-Dar Li, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: sli@oicr.on.ca</p>