This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Junction plakoglobin (JUP)	<p>Studies in mice and patient samples suggest JUP inhibition could help prevent breast cancer metastasis. In mice with fluorescently tagged human breast cancer, rare clusters of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) had up to 50-fold higher potential to cause lung metastasis than single CTCs. In single-cell RNA sequencing of samples from patients with metastatic breast cancer, clustered CTCs showed greater JUP expression than matched single CTCs. In mice injected with human breast CTC clusters, <i>JUP</i>-targeting shRNA resulted in decreased lung metastasis compared with control shRNA. Next steps include developing strategies that can lower JUP levels or activity.</p> <p>SciBX 7(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1065 Published online Sept. 18, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Aceto, N. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Aug. 28, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.07.013</p> <p>Contact: Shyamala Maheswaran, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: maheswaran@helix.mgh.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Daniel A. Haber, same affiliation as above e-mail: dhaber@mgh.harvard.edu</p>