This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Transmembrane protease serine 2 (TMPRSS2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting TMPRSS2 could help prevent prostate cancer metastasis. In patients with prostate cancer, TMPRSS2 levels were higher in primary and metastatic tumors than in the corresponding normal tissues. Screening of chemical libraries identified the generic bromhexine hydrochloride as a high nanomolar inhibitor of TMPRSS2. In a mouse model of prostate cancer, <i>Tmprss2</i> knockout or intraperitoneal injection of bromhexine hydrochloride decreased the number of metastases compared with no genetic alteration or vehicle control injection. Next steps could include assessing the effects of bromhexine hydrochloride in additional animal models of prostate cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 7(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1155 Published online Oct. 9, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Lucas, J.M. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online Aug. 13, 2014; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-13-1010 Contact: Peter S. Nelson, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: pnelson@fhcrc.org</p>