This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Splice variant v6 of CD44 (CD44v6); phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting CD44v6 and PI3K could be useful for preventing metastasis in colorectal cancer. In mice implanted with patient-isolated colorectal cancer stem cells (CR-CSCs), shRNA against <i>CD44v6</i> inhibited metastasis, whereas control shRNA did not. In CR-CSCs, expression of <i>CD44v6</i> was associated with upregulated PI3K signaling. In mice implanted with human CR-CSCs, PI3K inhibition decreased metastatic potential compared with vehicle treatment. Next steps could include evaluating small molecule PI3K inhibitors in models of metastatic colorectal cancer.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Todaro, M. <i>et al. Cell Stem Cell</i> ; published online March 6, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.stem.2014.01.009 Contact: Giorgio Stassi, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy e-mail: giorgio.stassi@unipa.it Contact: Ruggero De Maria, Elena National Cancer Institute, Rome, Italy e-mail: demaria@ifo.it
		SciBX 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.396 Published online April 10, 2014		