This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Fas receptor (CD95)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest blocking CD95 signaling could help treat breast cancer. CD95 signaling can promote apoptosis in some cells, but constitutive CD95 expression in breast cancer cells is associated with resistance to CD95-induced apoptosis and increased inflammation. In mice with orthotopic breast tumor xenografts, shRNA knockdown of <i>Cd95</i> decreased tumor growth and metastasis and increased survival compared with no alteration. In these mice, <i>Cd95</i> knockdown suppressed tumor growth by decreasing cancer-related inflammation and proinflammatory cytokine levels. Next steps could include testing CD95 inhibition in additional animal models of cancer.</p> <p>Topotarget A/S' APO010, a fusion protein derived from the Fas ligand (TNF superfamily, member 6; FASL), is in Phase I testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>At least two other companies have CD95-targeted therapies in preclinical development.</p> <p>SciBX 7(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.424 Published online April 17, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Liu, Q. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online March 13, 2014; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.525014</p> <p>Contact: Xuetao Cao, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China e-mail: caoxt@immunol.org</p> <p>Contact: Qiuyan Liu, same affiliation as above e-mail: liuqy@immunol.org</p>