This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a STAT3-specific binding peptide that could help treat cancer. Peptides made up of a β-hairpin-forming tryptophan zipper region and a target-binding site of randomized amino acids were used to generate a peptide library. A phage display-based screen of the library detected a peptide that bound STAT3 with a K_d value of 231 nM. In three mouse models of cancer, the peptide conjugated to a cell-penetrating peptide decreased tumor burden compared with saline or a scrambled peptide. Next steps could include testing the peptide in additional animal models of cancer.</p> <p>At least five companies have STAT3 inhibitors in Phase I/II or earlier testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 7(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.426 Published online April 17, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kim, D. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Feb. 27, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-2187 Contact: Sangyong Jon, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon, South Korea e-mail: syjon@kaist.ac.kr</p>