This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Tubulin	<p><i>In vitro</i> and human studies suggest paclitaxel induces cell death by promoting the formation of abnormal multipolar spindles that lead to chromosomal missegregation during mitosis. In cultured breast cancer cell lines, clinically relevant concentrations of paclitaxel promoted multipolar spindle formation and resulted in chromosomal missegregation during mitosis followed by cell death. In tumor biopsies from patients treated with paclitaxel, the number of cells with multipolar spindles increased compared with what was seen with no treatment, and the presence of multipolar spindles correlated with tumor regression. Next steps include identifying a biomarker to select patients who will respond to paclitaxel. Paclitaxel is a generic chemotherapeutic.</p> <p>SciBX 7(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.427 Published online April 17, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Zasadil, L.M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 26, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3007965 Contact: Beth A. Weaver, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: baweaver@wisc.edu</p>