This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Lung cancer	EPH receptor A2 (EPHA2)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting EPHA2 could help treat lung cancer. In a <i>K-Ras</i> (<i>KRAS</i>)-driven mouse model of lung cancer, <i>Epha2</i> knockout decreased tumor burden and increased tumor cell apoptosis compared with no alteration. In cultured human non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) cells, an inhibitor of EPHA2 increased cell death compared with an inactive analog. In a mouse xenograft model of NSCLC, the inhibitor decreased tumor growth and increased tumor cell apoptosis compared with the analog or vehicle. Next steps could include developing inhibitors with higher specificity for EPHA2 or with increased bioavailability. Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. has the anti-EPHA2 antibody DS-8859a in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 7(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.557 Published online May 15, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Amato, K.R. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 8, 2014; doi:10.1172/JCI72522 Contact: Jin Chen, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: jin.chen@vanderbilt.edu</p>