This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	3-Oxoacyl-ACP synthase mitochondrial (OXSM); fatty acid synthase (FASN; FAS)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest increasing OXSM signaling with antioxidants such as α-lipoic acid could help protect normal cells from the toxic effects of C75, a FAS inhibitor known to have anticancer activity. In a normal human embryonic kidney cell line, α-lipoic acid supplementation decreased C75 challenge-induced mitochondrial dysfunction and increased cell viability compared with no supplementation. In cell culture, vector-induced OXSM overexpression also protected against C75 challenge-induced mitochondrial dysfunction and toxicity compared with wild-type OXSM expression. Next steps include confirmatory preclinical studies in mouse models. C75 is a research reagent.</p> <p>SciBX 7(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.668 Published online June 12, 2014</p>	Patent application filed covering use of α -lipoic acid and C75 in cancer treatment; unavailable for licensing	<p>Chen, C. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online May 1, 2014; doi:10.1074/jbc.M114.550806 Contact: Zhihui Feng, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China e-mail: zhfeng@mail.xjtu.edu.cn Contact: Jiankang Liu, same affiliation as above e-mail: j.liu@mail.xjtu.edu.cn</p>