This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	G protein- coupled receptor 81 (GPR81)	Cell-based, patient sample and mouse studies suggest inhibiting the lactate receptor GPR81 could help treat pancreatic cancer. In a collection of 158 tumors from patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas (PDACs), GPR81 levels were elevated in 148 of the specimens. In human PDAC cell lines grown in lactate, but not glucose, <i>GPR81</i> shRNA decreased mitochondrial activity by 50% and increased apoptosis by 500% compared with control shRNA. In a mouse xenograft model of PDAC, <i>GPR81</i> shRNA decreased tumor growth and metastatic burden and increased survival compared with shRNA control. Next steps could include designing or screening for GPR81 inhibitors.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Roland, C.L. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i> ; published online June 13, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-14-0319 Contact: Craig D. Logsdon, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: clogsdon@mdanderson.org
<i>SciBX</i> 7(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.825 Published online July 24, 2014				