This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Glycocalyx	<p>Studies in patient samples and cell culture suggest decreasing the extracellular glycoprotein and glycan polymeric layer called the glycocalyx could help treat cancer and prevent metastasis. Circulating tumor cells isolated from patients with aggressive breast cancers showed high expression of bulky glycoproteins and bulk-adding glycosyltransferases. Nonmalignant mammary epithelial cells modified to produce a bulky glycocalyx showed increased growth and survival on tumor microenvironment-mimicking hydrogel substrates compared with controls that had normal glycocalyx. Ongoing work includes studies to further assess the relevance of the glycocalyx to tumor metastasis, receptor structure and function, and the signaling, recycling and endocytosis of growth factor receptors.</p> <p>SciBX 7(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.859 Published online July 31, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Paszek, M.J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online June 25, 2014; doi:10.1038/nature13535 Contact: Valerie M. Weaver, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: valerie.weaver@ucsfmedctr.org</p>