This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Fatty acid synthase (FASN; FAS)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting FASN could help prevent tumor regrowth after antiangiogenic therapy. In mouse xenograft models of metastatic human breast cancer, antiangiogenics caused tumor regression, but tumor regrowth and metastasis accelerated following drug withdrawal. In mouse models of breast, colon and lung cancer, the FASN inhibitor Xenical orlistat given after withdrawal of antiangiogenic therapy decreased tumor regrowth and metastasis compared with vehicle. Next steps could include testing the strategy in additional cancer models.</p> <p>Roche and GlaxoSmithKline plc market Xenical, a reversible lipase inhibitor that also targets FASN, to treat obesity. At least two other companies have FASN inhibitors in Phase I or earlier testing to treat various cancers, obesity or HCV infection.</p> <p>SciBX 7(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.945 Published online Aug. 21, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Sounni, N.E. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online July 10, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2014.05.022 Contact: Nor Eddine Sounni, University of Liege, Liege, Belgium e-mail: nesounni@ulg.ac.be</p>