

THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer			J. J	
Breast cancer	Special AT-rich sequence binding 1 (SATB1)	In vitro and in vivo studies suggest that antagonizing SATB1 could be useful for treating breast cancer. Nuclear staining of 985 ductal carcinoma specimens from breast cancer patients identified a correlation between higher SATB1 expression levels and shorter overall survival (<i>p</i> <0.001). In mice with aggressive breast cancer, SATB1 small hairpin RNA reversed tumorigenesis and inhibited tumor growth and metastasis. Ectopic expression of SATB1 in a nonmetastatic cell line led to gene expression patterns consistent with aggressive tumor phenotypes. Next steps include developing a system for delivering inhibitors of SATB1 to breast cancer cell nuclei.	Patent application filed for SATB1 as a determinant of morphogenesis and metastasis; available for licensing	Han, H. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online March 12, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature06781 Contact: Terumi Kohwi-Shigematsu Life Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: Terumiks@lbl.gov