

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Liver cancer	Transmembrane 4 L six family member 5 (TM4SF5)	Studies of hepatocytes <i>in vitro</i> and in mice suggest that targeting TM4SF5 could help treat some forms of liver cancer. TM4SF5 is a transmembrane protein of the tetraspanin family that is overexpressed in human liver cancer samples. Nude mice injected with SNU449 hepatocarcinoma cells expressing TM4SF5 had higher rates of tumor formation than mice receiving hepatocarcinoma cells not expressing TM4SF5. The researchers are conducting <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies with two plant-derived small molecules that potentially target either TM4SF5 itself or TM4SF5-positive cells.	Korean and international patent applications filed covering therapeutic targeting of TM4SF5 and its tumorigenic mechanisms, as well as composition of matter on certain related chemical structures; all available for licensing	Lee, S.-A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online March 20, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI33768 Contact: Jung Weon Lee, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea e-mail: jwl@snu.ac.kr