

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β); angiopoietin-like 4 (Angptl4)	<p>Studies in mice and cell culture suggest that blocking TGF-β signaling could be a strategy to prevent breast cancer metastasis in the lung. In mice implanted with a breast cancer cell line metastatic to the lung, disruption of TGF-β signaling did not decrease mammary tumor growth but did significantly reduce lung metastasis compared with the effects seen in wild-type mice ($p < 0.05$). A separate study in mice revealed a direct relationship between lung metastasis and Angptl4. Angptl4 expression was strongly influenced by TGF-β. Additional studies are needed to better understand the role of Angptl4 in breast cancer lung metastasis and to identify additional TGF-β-linked factors that affect metastasis in other tissues.</p> <p>Antisense Pharma GmbH is developing AP 11014 and AP 12009, both TGF-β antisense oligonucleotides to treat cancer.</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Padua, D. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online April 4, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2008.01.046</p> <p>Contact: Joan Massagué, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, New York, N.Y. e-mail: j-massague@mskcc.org</p>