This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Cancer/testis antigens on the X chromosome (CT-X antigen); cancer/testis antigen 1B (CTAG1B; NY-ESO-1); melanoma antigen family A (MAGEA)	<p>Studies in human cancer samples suggest that vaccines based on CT-X antigens could help treat estrogen receptor (ER)- and progesterone receptor (PR)-negative breast cancers. Sequencing data from 1,310 primary breast cancer cases showed that CT-X antigen expression in ER/PR-negative breast cancer samples was higher than that in ER/PR-positive breast cancer samples. MAGEA and NY-ESO-1 were the most prevalent CT-X antigens found in those samples. Next steps include a clinical trial to evaluate vaccines against these antigens in breast cancer patients who have had MAGEA-positive or NY-ESO-1-positive primary tumors removed.</p> <p>SciBX 2(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1335 Published online Sept. 10, 2009</p>	Patented for applications in cancer; licensed to multiple companies including GlaxoSmithKline plc	<p>Grigoriadis, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 27, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0906840106 Contact: Lloyd J. Old, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, New York, N.Y. e-mail: lold@licr.org Contact: Otavia L. Caballero, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: caballeo@mskcc.org</p>