This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor (IGF1R)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that antagonizing IGF1R could potentially treat some forms of breast cancer. Mice with constitutively active Kras expression in their mammary glands also overexpressed Igf1r in the mammary carcinomas that subsequently developed. Breast-specific knockout of <i>Igf1r</i> increased latency of the cancer. Also, in tumor-bearing mice, the Igf1r inhibitor cyclolignan picropodophyllin (PPP) decreased Igf1r levels and tumor mass compared with the effects of no treatment. Further studies are necessary to identify GMP-grade, water-soluble PPP derivatives for clinical development.</p> <p>At least 13 companies have therapeutics targeting IGF1R to treat cancer in clinical and preclinical testing.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.176 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Two patent applications filed in the U.S.; technology exclusively licensed to Stockbridge Pharmaceuticals Inc.; Stockbridge is interested in sublicensing rights for animal treatment and intends to partner with a pharmaceutical company for clinical development	<p>Klinakis, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 26, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810221106 Contact: Argiris Efstratiadis, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ae4@columbia.edu</p>