This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Hyaluronan; tumor necrosis factor, α -induced protein 6 (TNFAIP6; TSG6); yeast cytosine deaminase (FCY1; CD)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that LinkCD, a prodrug targeted to the tumor extracellular matrix, could be useful for treating cancer.</p> <p>The compound is a fusion of the TSG6 hyaluronan-binding Link domain and FCY1, which converts 5-fluorocytosine (5-FC) to cytotoxic 5-fluorouracil (5-FU). <i>In vitro</i>, LinkCD bound to hyaluronan, a polysaccharide in the extracellular matrix of cancer cells. In mice with colon cancer, LinkCD plus 5-FC substantially decreased tumor growth and increased survival compared with what was seen in controls. Next steps include testing LinkCD in additional animal models of cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.483 Published online March 26, 2009</p>	U.S. patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	<p>Park, J. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i>; published online March 5, 2009; doi:10.1021/mp800013c</p> <p>Contact: Francis Szoka, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: szoka@cgl.ucsf.edu</p>