This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Glioma-associated oncogene homolog 1 (GLI1)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that antagonizing GLI1, a member of the hedgehog signaling pathway, could be useful for treating pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). In four human PDAC cell lines, small hairpin RNA targeting GLI1 significantly increased apoptosis compared with the effect of a scrambled control peptide ($p < 0.01$ for three of the cell lines and $p < 0.05$ for one cell line). Next steps could include antagonizing GLI1 in animal models of pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>Multiple companies are pursuing hedgehog antagonists, including partners Curis Inc. and Genentech Inc., which are running Phase II studies of GDC-0449 for first-line metastatic colorectal cancer, advanced basal cell carcinoma and advanced ovarian cancer, and Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc., which is running a Phase I trial of IPI-926 to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.52 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Nolan-Stevaux, O. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i>; published online Jan. 1, 2009; doi:10.1101/gad.1753809 Contact: Douglas Hanahan, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: dh@ucsf.edu</p>