

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Focal adhesion kinase (PTK2; FAK); integrin B ₁ (ITGB1; CD29)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting FAK and ITGB1 could help prevent cancer metastasis. In mice with breast cancer that metastasized to the lung, small hairpin RNA knockdown of FAK or ITGB1 reduced cell proliferation compared with scrambled shRNA. In metastasis-prone mouse mammary carcinoma cells, shRNA knockdown of FAK or ITGB1 reduced cell proliferation in 3D culture conditions compared with scrambled shRNA. Next steps could include identifying and evaluating small molecule FAK and ITGB1 inhibitors in preclinical models of cancer metastasis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.933 Published online June 11, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Shibue, T. & Weinberg, R.A. <i>Proc Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 25, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0904227106</p> <p>Contact: Robert A. Weinberg, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: weinberg@wi.mit.edu</p>