

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing 5 (BIRC5); X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis (XIAP)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting BIRC5 or XIAP could help prevent tumor metastasis. In invasive breast cancer cells, small interfering RNA against <i>XIAP</i> or <i>BIRC5</i> blocked invasion compared with nontargeted siRNA. In mice, injection of tumor cells expressing wild-type <i>Xiap</i> into the spleen led to liver metastasis compared with injection of <i>Xiap</i> knockout tumor cells. Next steps include designing XIAP antagonists. At least seven companies have BIRC5 inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancer.	Development of small molecule inhibitors of BIRC5 patented; unavailable for licensing	Mehrotra, S. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i> ; published online Jan. 19, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.11.021 Contact: Dario C. Altieri, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: dario.altieri@umassmed.edu
		SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.145 Published online Feb. 4, 2010		