

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Lung cancer	Neutrophil elastase (NE; ELA-2)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting ELA-2 in neutrophils could help treat lung cancer. In a mouse model of lung cancer, <i>Ela-2</i> knockout significantly reduced tumor proliferation and improved survival compared with those in wild-type controls ($p < 0.01$ and $p = 0.006$, respectively). In the same model, the ELA-2 inhibitor ONO-5046 led to a 69% reduction in tumor volume compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include evaluating ELA-2 inhibitors in additional animal lung cancer models and evaluating the potential of ONO-5046 to treat lung cancer in humans. Sivelestat (ONO-5046), a small molecule from Ono Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., is approved to treat acute lung injury.</p> <p>SciBX 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.182 Published online Feb. 11, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Houghton, A.M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 17, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2084</p> <p>Contact: A. McGarry Houghton, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: houghtonm@dom.pitt.edu</p>