This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Not applicable	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that analogs of the natural product neo-tanshinlactone could help treat breast cancer. An *in vitro* screen identified five lead compounds that were nanomolar inhibitors of HER2 (ERBB2; neu)-positive and/or estrogen receptor–positive human breast cancer cell lines. In mice with HER2-positive and estrogen receptor–positive xenograft breast tumors, one of the compounds reduced tumor growth compared with vehicle. Ongoing work includes lead optimization, additional *in vivo* studies and elucidation of the mechanism of action of the compounds. ***SciBX*** **3(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.241** **Published online Feb. 25, 2010**	Patented by The University of North Carolina; available for licensing	Dong, Y. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online Feb. 11, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm1000858 **Contact:** Kenneth F. Bastow, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: ken_bastow@unc.edu **Contact:** Kuo-Hsiung Lee, same affiliation as above e-mail: khlee@unc.edu