This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Ovarian cancer	Epidermal growth factor receptor 3 (HER3; ERBB3)	<p>A cell culture and mouse study suggests that inhibiting <i>ERBB3</i> could help treat a subset of ovarian cancers with constitutive <i>ERBB3</i> activation. In human ovarian cancer cell lines with constitutive <i>ERBB3</i> activation, small hairpin RNA knockdown of the target reduced proliferation compared with control shRNA treatment. In cell lines that expressed unactivated <i>ERBB3</i>, proliferation was not significantly affected. In a mouse model of human ovarian cancer, shRNA knockdown of <i>ERBB3</i> reduced tumor growth and increased survival compared with what was seen using control shRNA. Next steps could include evaluating ERBB3 inhibitors in additional animal cancer models.</p> <p>MM-121, a human mAb against ERBB3 from Merrimack Pharmaceuticals Inc. and sanofi-aventis Group, is in Phase I testing to treat cancer. Merrimack's MM-111, a bispecific antibody targeting ERBB3 and ERBB2 (HER2; neu), is in Phase I/II testing for cancer. AMG 888, a human mAb against ERBB3 from Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. and Amgen Inc., is in Phase I testing for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.405 Published online April 1, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Sheng, Q. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online March 15, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.12.047</p> <p>Contact: David M. Livingston, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: david_livingston@dfci.harvard.edu</p>