This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand receptor (TRAILR); retinoic acid receptor (RAR)	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that combining TRAILR agonists and RAR agonists could help treat colorectal cancer. In a cell culture model of colorectal cancer, as compared to in noncancerous control cells, a combination of TRAILR and RAR agonists triggered apoptosis. In a murine model of colorectal cancer, the combination therapy reduced the number of cancer stem cells in tumor polyps and the overall number of tumors compared with either agent alone. Next steps include testing the TRAILR and RAR agonist combination therapy in mice.</p> <p>At least five companies are developing mAbs targeting TRAILR to treat cancer. The RAR agonist retinoic acid is a generic marketed for dermatological indications.</p> <p>Roche's R667 RAR agonist is in Phase II testing for emphysema.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.463 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Zhang, L. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 28, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature08871</p> <p>Contact: Xiangwei Wu, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: xwwu@mdanderson.org</p>