

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	AXL receptor tyrosine kinase (AXL; UFO)	A study in patient samples and mice suggests that inhibiting AXL could help treat breast cancer. In patient breast tumor samples, high AXL levels were associated with lower survival rates than low AXL levels ($p=0.035$). In multiple mouse models of human breast cancer, small hairpin RNA-mediated knockdown of AXL increased survival and reduced invasiveness and metastasis compared with what occurred using control shRNAs. Next steps include studying the signaling and activation mechanisms for AXL and developing antibodies that block its function.	Patent application filed covering diagnostic and therapeutic applications in cancer; licensed to BerGenBio A/S	Gjerdrum, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 28, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0909333107 Contact: James B. Lorens, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway e-mail: jim.lorens@biomed.uib.no
<p>SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.79 Published online Jan. 21, 2010</p>				