

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Transforming growth factor- α (TGFA; TGF α); heparin-binding EGF-like growth factor (HBEGF)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that antibodies targeting EGFR ligands could increase the efficacy of chemotherapy to treat pancreatic cancer. In a mouse xenograft model of pancreatic cancer, gemcitabine plus two antibodies against the EGFR ligands TGFα and HBEGF led to increased inhibition of tumor growth compared with any therapy alone or saline control. Next steps include humanizing the antibodies for further testing in pancreatic cancer and exploring the potential of the approach in other cancers.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co. markets Gemzar gemcitabine to treat various cancers including pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.824 Published online July 15, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Lindzen, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 28, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1006218107</p> <p>Contact: Yosef Yarden, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel e-mail: yosef.yarden@weizmann.ac.il</p>