This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90); mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase (MEK)	*In vitro* studies suggest that combining inhibitors of Hsp90 and MEK could help treat pancreatic cancer and prevent pancreatic cancer metastases. In human pancreatic cell lines, an Hsp90 inhibitor plus a MEK inhibitor decreased cell proliferation and migration compared with either compound alone. Future studies could include testing combined Hsp90 and MEK inhibition in animal models of pancreatic cancer. Tanespimycin (KOS-953), an Hsp90 inhibitor from the Kosan Biosciences Inc. unit of Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., has completed Phase III testing to treat multiple myeloma (MM). At least four other companies have Hsp90 inhibitors in Phase II testing to treat cancer. At least seven companies have MEK inhibitors in Phase I/II testing to treat various cancers. ***SciBX* 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.919** **Published online Aug. 5, 2010**	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Zhang, T. *et al. Mol. Pharm.*; published online July 15, 2010; doi:10.1021/mp900321a **Contact:** Duxin Sun, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: duxins@umich.edu