

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	Desmoglein 2 (DSG2)	<p>Studies in mice suggest an adenovirus-derived protein could improve the efficacy of cancer biologics. In a mouse model of breast cancer, i.v. injection of a DSG2-binding adenovirus-derived protein, dubbed junction opener 1 (JO-1), increased tumor uptake of Herceptin trastuzumab compared with vehicle injection. In a xenograft mouse model of HER2 (EGFR2; ERBB2; neu)-positive breast cancer, JO-1 increased the effects of Herceptin compared with vehicle control. In a mouse model of metastatic lung cancer, JO-1 improved the effects of Erbitux cetuximab compared with vehicle. Next steps include completing safety studies of JO-1 and starting toxicology studies in nonhuman primates.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit markets Herceptin, an anti-HER2 antibody, to treat breast and gastric cancers.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Merck KGaA market Erbitux, a mAb targeting epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), to treat colorectal cancer and head and neck cancer.</p> <p><b>SciBX 4(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1203</b> Published online Nov. 3, 2011</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from the University of Washington</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Angela Loihl, University of Washington Center for Commercialization, Seattle, Wash.</p> <p>e-mail: <a href="mailto:aloihl@u.washington.edu">aloihl@u.washington.edu</a></p>	<p>Beyer, I. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Oct. 11, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-2009</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Andre Lieber, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.</p> <p>e-mail: <a href="mailto:lieber00@u.washington.edu">lieber00@u.washington.edu</a></p>