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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1; THBS1)	*In vitro*, mouse and human studies suggest that inhibiting the antiangiogenic protein TSP-1 could help treat castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). In patient samples, high TSP-1 mRNA levels in tumor tissue were associated with recurrence. In mice bearing xenograft CRPC tumors, small interfering RNA against TSP-1 did cause an increase in tumor angiogenesis but ultimately inhibited tumor growth compared with untargeted siRNA. These results contrast with the current strategy of treating CRPC with TSP-1 agonists to inhibit angiogenesis. Ongoing work includes investigating the association between early expression of TSP-1 and tumor progression in animal models and patients. Tasquinimod (ABR-215050), a second-generation linomide that agonizes TSP-1 from Active Biotech AB, is in Phase III testing to treat metastatic CRPC. *SciBX* 4(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1266 Published online Nov. 17, 2011	Patented by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and SeleXel; available for licensing or partnering	Firlej, V. *et al. Cancer Res.*; published online Oct. 28, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-0833 **Contact:** Florence Cabon, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Toulouse, France e-mail: florence.cabon@inserm.fr