

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Hormonally up-regulated Neu-associated kinase (HUNK; B19); HER2 (EGFR2; ERBB2; neu)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting HUNK could help treat HER2-expressing breast cancers. In transgenic mice, deletion of Hunk decreased HER2-induced tumor formation by 50% compared with expression of wild-type Hunk. In human HER2-expressing breast cancer cells, HUNK-targeting small hairpin RNA decreased proliferation and increased apoptosis compared with control shRNA. Next steps include developing a selective small molecule HUNK inhibitor.</p> <p>At least 16 companies have HER2 inhibitors or antibodies in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.248 Published online March 3, 2011</p>	Patents issued and pending; unavailable for licensing	<p>Yeh, E.S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Feb. 14, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI42928</p> <p>Contact: Lewis A. Chodosh, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: chodosh@mail.med.upenn.edu</p>