This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Focal adhesion kinase (FAK)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting FAK could help prevent metastasis. In mice with cancer, expression of nonfunctional Fak in endothelial cells decreased lung metastasis compared with that in wild-type mice. Next steps include testing a small molecule FAK inhibitor plus chemotherapy in animal models of metastasis.</p> <p>Cephalon Inc's CEP-37440, a dual inhibitor of anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) and FAK, is in preclinical development for lymphoma, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and prostate cancer. CureFAKtor Pharmaceuticals LLC's FAK inhibitor, CFAK-C4, is in preclinical development for pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.276 Published online March 10, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Hiratsuka, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 14, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1100446108</p> <p>Contact: Rakesh K. Jain, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jain@steele.mgh.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Dan G. Duda, same affiliation as above e-mail: duda@steele.mgh.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Dai Fukumura, same affiliation as above e-mail: dai@steele.mgh.harvard.edu</p>