This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Src	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that Src inhibitors could decrease breast cancer resistance to Herceptin trastuzumab. In five Herceptin-resistant human breast cancer cell lines, the small molecule Src inhibitor saracatinib (AZD0530) increased sensitivity to Herceptin compared with vehicle. In a mouse model of Herceptin-resistant human breast cancer, Herceptin plus small hairpin RNA-mediated Src knockdown or saracatinib resulted in lower tumor volumes than Herceptin alone. Next steps could include developing a dosing protocol to evaluate Herceptin and saracatinib in patients with Herceptin-resistant cancers.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit markets Herceptin to treat breast and gastric cancers.</p> <p>AstraZeneca plc's saracatinib is in Phase II testing to treat breast and prostate cancer in patients with metastatic bone disease and to treat advanced ovarian cancer and recurrent osteosarcoma localized to the lung.</p> <p>At least six other companies have therapeutics targeting Src in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.336 Published online March 24, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhang, S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 13, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2309</p> <p>Contact: Dihua Yu, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: dyu@mdanderson.org</p>