This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	IQ motif containing GTPase activating protein 1 (IQGAP1); HER2 (EGFR2; ERBB2; neu)	<p>Studies in patient samples and in cell culture suggest inhibiting IQGAP1 could help treat Herceptin trastuzumab-resistant, HER2-positive breast cancer. In patient breast carcinomas, 16 of 19 HER2-positive samples had moderate expression of IQGAP1, whereas 16 of 20 HER2-negative samples had minimal expression of IQGAP1. In a Herceptin-resistant cell line, small interfering RNA against IQGAP1 inhibited growth and sensitized cells to Herceptin compared with control siRNA. Next steps include validating the findings in additional Herceptin-resistant cancer models.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit markets Herceptin, an anti-HER2 antibody, to treat breast and gastric cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.819 Published online July 28, 2011</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>White, C.D. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online July 1, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.220939</p> <p>Contact: Colin D. White, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: cdwhite@bidmc.harvard.edu</p>