This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	CD44; pyruvate kinase M2 isozyme (PKM2)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting CD44 could help sensitize glycolytic cancer cells to chemotherapy. In <i>p53</i>-deficient cancer cells undergoing aerobic glycolysis, small interfering RNA against CD44, which directly interacts with the glycolysis regulator PKM2, increased PKM2 activity and decreased aerobic glycolysis compared with control siRNA. In the same cells, combining the generic chemotherapeutic cisplatin with siRNA targeting CD44 increased cell death compared with cisplatin plus control siRNA. Next steps include identifying inhibitors that disrupt the interaction of CD44 and PKM2.</p> <p>Agios Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Dynamix Pharmaceuticals Ltd. have independent preclinical programs targeting PKM2 for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.172 Published online Feb. 16, 2012</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Tamada, M. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Jan. 31, 2012; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-3024</p> <p>Contact: Hideyuki Saya, Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: hsaya@a5.keio.jp</p>