This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT); peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor- γ coactivator 1 β (PPARGC1B; PGC-1 β)	Studies in mice suggest combined inhibition of telomerase and mitochondrial function could help treat cancer. In mice, implantation of lymphoma cells depleted of TERT prolonged survival compared with implantation of TERT-expressing cells, though TERT-deficient tumors eventually progressed. In mice with tumors resistant to TERT deficiency, small hairpin RNA against PGC-1 β , which regulates mitochondrial biogenesis, increased tumor-free survival compared with control shRNA. Next steps include testing the effects of telomerase and mitochondrial inhibition in other tumor types. <i>SciBX</i> 5(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.251 Published online March 8, 2012	Disclosure of invention filed; available for licensing from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Hu, J. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online Feb. 17, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2011.12.028 Contact: Ronald A. DePinho, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: rdepinho@mdanderson.org