This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Focal adhesion kinase (FAK)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest combining FAK and autophagy inhibitors could help treat cancer. In squamous carcinoma cells from Fak knockout mice, autophagy inhibitors increased apoptosis compared with no treatment. Next steps include identifying interactions between FAK and regulators of autophagy.</p> <p>CureFAKtor Pharmaceuticals LLC's FAK and VEGF receptor 3 (FLT4; VEGFR-3) inhibitor, CFAK-C4, is in preclinical development for pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.'s anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) and FAK inhibitor, CEP-37440, is in preclinical development for multiple cancers. Teva gained rights to the compound through its acquisition of Cephalon Inc. in 2011.</p> <p>SciBX 5(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.36 Published online Jan. 12, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Sandilands, E. <i>et al. Nat. Cell Biol.</i>; published online Dec. 4, 2011; doi:10.1038/ncb2386</p> <p>Contact: Margaret C. Frame, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, U.K. e-mail: m.frame@ed.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact: Simon Wilkinson, same affiliation as above e-mail: s.wilkinson@ed.ac.uk</p>