This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	NF-κB	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest dithiolethiones could help treat estrogen receptor (ER)-negative breast cancers. Dithiolethiones are known to inhibit NF-κB activity by an unknown mechanism. In human ER-negative breast cancer cells, dithiolethiones inhibited NF-κB-mediated transcription of tumor progression- and metastasis-promoting genes by directly blocking NF-κB-DNA binding. In a xenograft mouse model of ER-negative human breast cancer, intraperitoneal injection of a dithiolethione decreased tumor growth compared with injection of vehicle control. Next steps include increasing the <i>in vivo</i> stability of the compounds. At least five companies have NF-κB inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing for various indications.</p> <p>SciBX 5(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.410 Published online April 19, 2012</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Switzer, C.H. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online March 21, 2012; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-3115 Contact: David A. Wink, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: david.wink@nih.gov</p>