## This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Various** | | | | |
| Cancer; thrombosis | Not applicable | *In vitro* and mouse studies suggest preventing formation of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) could help prevent thrombosis in patients with cancer. In neutrophils isolated from three different mouse models of cancer, stimulation with a platelet-activating factor generated more thrombosis-inducing NETs than stimulation in neutrophils isolated from control mice. In a mouse model of breast cancer, NETs were associated with the formation of pulmonary thromboses. In this model, lipopolysaccharide (LPS) stimulation resulted in greater NET production than that in tumor-free mice and induced a prothrombotic state. Next steps include screening for therapeutics with anti-NET effects. | Patent application filed; available for licensing | Demers, M. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online July 23, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1200419109<br>**Contact:** Denisa D. Wagner, Immune Disease Institute, Boston, Mass.<br>e-mail: wagner@idi.harvard.edu |

*SciBX* 5(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.824
Published online Aug. 9, 2012