

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Retinoic acid receptor responder (tazarotene induced) 1 (RARRES1; TIG1); AXL receptor tyrosine kinase (AXL; UFO)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting TIG1 could help treat inflammatory breast cancer. Inflammatory breast cancer is a rare form of the disease characterized by cancer cells that block the lymphatic vessels in the skin covering the breast. High TIG1 expression correlated with short overall survival in patients with the disease. In cultured inflammatory breast cancer cells, small hairpin RNA against <i>TIG1</i> or an inhibitor of AXL, which is stabilized by TIG1, decreased cell proliferation, migration and invasion compared with shRNA or vehicle controls. In mice xenograft models of inflammatory breast cancer, shRNA against <i>TIG1</i> decreased tumor growth compared with shRNA control. Next steps include developing a therapeutic that inhibits TIG1 or the interaction between TIG1 and AXL.</p> <p>Rigel Pharmaceuticals Inc. and BerGenBio A/S have the AXL inhibitor BGB324 in Phase I testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>Qurient Co. Ltd. has the AXL inhibitor Q-4 in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1122 Published online Oct. 17, 2013</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	Wang, X. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i> ; published online Sept. 6, 2013; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-0967 Contact: Naoto T. Ueno, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: nueno@mdanderson.org