

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	HER2 (EGFR2; ErbB2; neu)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies have identified a HER2-specific aptamer that could help treat HER2⁺ cancers. In a human gastric cancer cell line, a trimeric version of a HER2-specific aptamer increased lysosome-mediated degradation of HER2 compared with an inactive control oligonucleotide. In a mouse xenograft model for human gastric cancer, the trimeric, HER2-specific aptamer inhibited tumor growth more than an anti-HER2 mAb or an inactive control oligonucleotide. Next steps include testing the trimeric aptamer in combination with approved, HER2-targeting drugs.</p> <p>SciBX 6(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.489 Published online May 23, 2013</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from Yeda Research and Development Co. Ltd., the technology transfer company of the Weizmann Institute of Science</p> <p>Contact: Amir Naiberg, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel e-mail: amir.naiberg@weizmann.ac.il</p>	<p>Mahlknecht, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 29, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1302594110</p> <p>Contact: Yosef Yarden, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel e-mail: yosef.yarden@weizmann.ac.il</p> <p>Contact: Michael Sela, same affiliation as above e-mail: michael.sela@weizmann.ac.il</p>