

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Liver cancer	Deoxycholic acid	<p>Mouse studies suggest decreasing deoxycholic acid production or deoxycholic acid-producing bacteria in the gut could help prevent obesity-associated hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). In obese, HCC-prone mice, vancomycin decreased both serum levels of deoxycholic acid and tumor burden in the liver compared with vehicle control. Pharmacological inhibition of deoxycholic acid production also led to decreased tumor burden in the liver. Next steps include determining whether levels of deoxycholic acid or deoxycholic acid-producing bacteria could be used as biomarkers in obesity-associated cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.755 Published online Aug. 1, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing and partnering	<p>Yoshimoto, S. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online June 26, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12347 Contact: Eiji Hara, Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: eiji.hara@jfc.or.jp</p>