This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Regulatory associated protein of MTOR complex 1 (RPTOR; raptor); sperm-associated antigen 5 (SPAG5; astrin)	*In vitro* studies suggest inhibiting the interaction between astrin and raptor could help treat cancer. In a human cervical cancer cell line, astrin interacted with raptor to block its interaction with mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1). In this cell line, small interfering RNA against astrin increased the signaling required for cellular stress–induced apoptosis compared with control siRNA. In breast cancer cells, siRNAs against astrin increased oxidative stress–induced apoptosis. Next steps include identifying or developing pharmacological inhibitors of the astrin-raptor interaction. *SciBX* 6(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.956 Published online Sept. 12, 2013	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Thedieck, K. *et al. Cell*; published online Aug. 15, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.07.031 **Contact:** Kathrin Thedieck, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany e-mail: kathrin.thedieck@biologie.uni-freiburg.de