

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	AXL receptor tyrosine kinase (AXL; UFO)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest combination treatment with AXL inhibitors and anti-mitotic agents could help treat cancer drug resistance associated with the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition. In a panel of 643 human cancer cell lines, high AXL expression was associated with the drug-resistant mesenchymal cell phenotype. In drug-resistant mesenchymal cancer cell lines, the AXL inhibitor R428 plus docetaxel chemotherapy decreased cell viability compared with docetaxel alone. In mouse xenograft models of drug-resistant mesenchymal cancers, R428 plus docetaxel inhibited growth versus either agent alone. Next steps could include identifying specific patient populations in which to evaluate the combination therapy approach. Rigel Pharmaceuticals Inc. and BerGenBio A/S have R428 in preclinical development to treat various cancers.</p> <p><b>SciBX 7(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1094</b>  <b>Published online Sept. 25, 2014</b></p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Wilson, C. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Aug. 14, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-14-1009  <b>Contact:</b> Jeff Settleman, Genentech Inc., San Francisco, Calif.                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:settleman.jeffrey@gene.com">settleman.jeffrey@gene.com</a></p>