

### 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); growth arrest-specific 6 (GAS6)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest an AXL-Fc fusion protein could help prevent cancer metastasis. Interactions between AXL and its ligand GAS6 have been implicated in metastatic cancers. <i>In vitro</i>, a fusion protein composed of an engineered variant of AXL and the Fc region of human IgG1 bound GAS6 with 80-fold higher affinity than wild-type AXL. In mouse xenograft models of breast and ovarian cancer, the engineered AXL-Fc fusion protein decreased metastasis compared with a wild-type AXL-Fc fusion protein. Next steps could include comparing the efficacy of the engineered AXL-Fc fusion protein with other classes of AXL inhibitors.</p> <p>At least six companies have AXL inhibitors in Phase I or earlier testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p><b>SciBX 7(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1231</b>  <b>Published online Oct. 30, 2014</b></p>	Patented; licensed to Ruga Corp.	<p>Kariolis, M.S. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Sept. 21, 2014; doi:10.1038/nchembio.1636</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Jennifer R. Cochran, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:jennifer.cochran@stanford.edu">jennifer.cochran@stanford.edu</a></p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Amato J. Giaccia, same affiliation as above  e-mail: <a href="mailto:giaccia@stanford.edu">giaccia@stanford.edu</a></p>