This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	G protein-coupled receptor 56 (GPR56)	<p>Mouse studies suggest stimulating GPR56 activity could help reduce melanoma growth by preventing the deposition of excess extracellular matrix. In xenograft mice, knockdown of <i>GPR56</i> in transplanted melanoma cells increased tumor growth compared with no alteration, but this effect was not seen in mice lacking <i>transglutaminase 2</i> (<i>Tgm2</i>; <i>Tg2</i>). In a xenograft mouse model of melanoma, overexpression of <i>GPR56</i> decreased extracellular deposition of Tg2 and fibronectin by driving GPR56 to bind to Tg2 and promote its endocytosis. Next steps include performing chemical screens for small molecules that can facilitate internalization of TG2 by GPR56.</p> <p>SciBX 7(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.141 Published online Feb. 6, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Yang, L. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Dec. 19, 2013; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-1268 Contact: Lei Xu, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y. e-mail: lei_xu@urmc.rochester.edu</p>