This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Ubiquitin specific peptidase 9 X-linked (USP9X; FAF); v-ets erythroblastosis virus E26 oncogene homolog (ERG)	*In vitro*, human tissue and mouse studies suggest inhibiting USP9X could help treat prostate cancer. In *in vitro* assays, the deubiquitinase USP9X bound to and stabilized ERG. In human prostate samples, USP9X expression was higher in ERG^+ prostate tumors than ERG^- tumors and benign tissue. In multiple mouse models of human prostate cancer, pharmacological inhibition of USP9X decreased ERG levels and growth of ERG^+ tumors compared with vehicle treatment. Next steps include developing USP9X inhibitors with improved potency. *SciBX* 7(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.372 Published online April 3, 2014	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Wang, S. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online March 3, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1322198111 **Contact:** Ralf Kittler, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: ralf.kittler@utsouthwestern.edu