This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Ovarian cancer	Unknown	<p>SAR studies identified a class of platinum pyrophosphato compounds that may be useful for treating ovarian cancer. In multiple ovarian cancer cell lines, one of the compounds, pyrodach-2, had cytotoxicity comparable or superior to cisplatin or carboplatin. In a gene expression assay, pyrodach-2 upregulated the expression of multiple proapoptotic genes. Also, NMR studies suggest that, unlike other platinum-based cancer drugs, pyrodach-2 does not form covalent bonds with DNA; instead, it exerts its cytotoxicity via a different mechanism. Next steps include dose tolerance studies in mice to compare the platinum-pyrophosphato complexes with other platinum therapeutics and identifying the molecular targets of these complexes.</p> <p>Eloxatin oxaliplatin, a platinum atom complexed with oxalate and diaminocyclohexane from Debiopharm S.A., Pfizer Inc. and sanofi-aventis Group, is marketed to treat various cancers. Picoplatin, a platinum chemotherapeutic agent from Poniard Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Genzyme Corp., is in Phase III testing to treat small cell lung cancer (SCLC).</p> <p>At least eight other companies have platinum-based cancer compounds in Phase II or earlier.</p> <p>SciBX 1(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1045 Published online Dec. 4, 2008</p>	<p>Patent cooperation treaty and U.S. patents filed; available for licensing from the Ohio University Technology Transfer Office</p> <p>Contact: Lisa Rooney, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio e-mail: rooney@ohio.edu</p>	<p>Bose, R.N. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 17, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0803094105</p> <p>Contact: Rathindra N. Bose, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio e-mail: bose@ohio.edu</p>