This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	DNA	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies showed that a new platinum-acridine complex could treat cancers resistant to conventional platinum drugs. In mouse models of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a 0.5 mg/kg dose of the platinum-acridine complex lowered tumor volume by 40% at 20 days compared with what was seen in vehicle-treated controls ($p < 0.01$). Enzyme inhibition assays suggest that the platinum complexes did not form DNA cross-links and instead damaged DNA at sequences different from those targeted by cisplatin. Next steps include identifying additional platinum-acridine analogs with lower toxicity and better potency, and evaluating the compounds in mice. 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.</p> <p>Picoplatin, a platinum chemotherapeutic agent from Poniard Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat SCLC.</p> <p>At least eight other companies have platinum-based cancer compounds in Phase II or earlier to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 1(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1067 Published online Dec. 11, 2008</p>	Wake Forest University is pursuing patent protection for the compounds; available for licensing from the Wake Forest University Health Sciences Center Office of Technology Asset Management	<p>Ma, Z. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Nov. 14, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm800900g</p> <p>Contact: Ulrich Bierbach, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, N.C. e-mail: bierbau@wfu.edu</p>