This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that 2-aminothieno[2,3-<i>d</i>]pyrimidine inhibitors of Hsp90 could treat cancer. Binding assays identified 2-aminothieno[2,3-<i>d</i>]pyrimidine analogs that inhibited Hsp90 and blocked proliferation of human cancer cell lines. In xenograft mice, optimized analogs reduced growth of human breast tumors compared with vehicle. Ongoing work at Vernalis plc includes the identification of a second series of Hsp90 inhibitors. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.'s Hsp90 inhibitor tanespimycin has completed Phase III testing to treat relapsed-refractory multiple myeloma (MM). Hy BioPharma Inc.'s hypericin, a phototherapeutic that inhibits Hsp90, is in Phase III testing as a topical agent to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL) and is in Phase I testing as an oral agent to treat glioblastoma. Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Hsp90 inhibitor, retaspimycin (IPI-504), is in Phase II testing to treat breast cancer and advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and is in Phase I testing to treat advanced solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 2(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1174 Published online Aug. 6, 2009</p>	<p>Patented by Vernalis and The Institute of Cancer Research; licensed to Novartis AG Contact: Michael Rugaard Jensen, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland e-mail: michael_rugaard.jensen@novartis.com</p>	<p>Brough, P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online July 17, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900357y Contact: Paul A. Brough, Vernalis plc, Great Abington, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: p.brough@vernalis.com</p>