This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Topoisomerase I (TOP1)	Studies in mice suggest that PEGylated poly (L-lysine) dendrimers could improve the safety of camptothecin-based cancer therapeutics. In a mouse model of murine colon carcinoma, a dendrimer-conjugated camptothecin significantly increased survival compared with free camptothecin, irinotecan or placebo ($p \leq 0.0001$). In a mouse model of human colon carcinoma, the conjugated camptothecin also significantly increased survival compared with that in controls ($p \leq 0.05$). Next steps include evaluating the dendrimer-conjugated camptothecin in additional tumor models. Pfizer Inc.'s Camptosar irinotecan, a semisynthetic derivative of the TOP1 inhibitor camptothecin, is marketed to treat multiple cancers. At least 11 other companies have camptothecin derivatives or conjugates in Phase III or earlier for cancer. SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1205 Published online Aug. 13, 2009	Work unpatented; available for licensing from the University of California, San Francisco Office of Technology Licensing Contact: Karin Immergluck, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: Karin.Immergluck@ucsf.edu	Fox, M.E. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i>; published online July 9, 2009; doi:10.1021/mp9001206 Contact: Francis C. Szoka, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: Szoka@cgl.ucsf.edu Contact: Jean M.J. Fréchet, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: frechet@berkeley.edu