This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Histone deacetylase (HDAC)	<p>SAR and high throughput screening studies identified cyclic $\alpha_3\beta$-tetrapeptides as HDAC inhibitors that could help treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, the compounds selectively inhibited class I isoforms of HDAC1, HDAC3 and HDAC8 and the class IIb isoform of HDAC6. Next steps include further optimization of the compounds and testing in animal models of cancer.</p> <p>At least 14 companies have HDAC inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1373 Published online Sept. 17, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Olsen, C. & Ghadiri, R. <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 25, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900850t</p> <p>Contact: M. Reza Ghadiri, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ghadiri@scripps.edu</p>