This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Tumor protein p53 (TP53; p53); mdm2 p53 binding protein homolog (MDM2)	A bee venom-derived peptide could provide a scaffold for p53 inhibitors to treat cancer. Stingin 5, a peptide that combines the amino acids of a p53-MDM2 inhibitor and a bee venom neurotoxin, had 15-fold higher binding affinity for MDM2 than did a small molecule p53 inhibitor. Inhibiting interactions between p53 and MDM2 is known to have an antiproliferative effect in some cancer cells. Next steps include developing a genetically encoded or nanoparticle-based system to deliver stingin into cells.	International patent cooperation treaty patent application filed; available for licensing	Li, C. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online Oct. 13, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200904550 Contact: Wuyuan Lu, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: wlu@ihv.umaryland.edu
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