This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	DNA	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture identified a nitrochloromethylbenzindoline-based prodrug that could help treat cancer. In a panel of 11 human cancer cell lines grown under hypoxic conditions such as often occur in solid cancers, the prodrug had 19- to 330-fold better cytotoxicity than in the same cell lines grown under nonhypoxic conditions. In mice with hypoxic, radiation-resistant human cervical cancer, the prodrug plus radiation significantly increased antitumor activity compared with radiation alone ($p < 0.01$). Next steps include improving the solubility of the compounds while preserving the hypoxia-selective activity.</p> <p>SciBX 2(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1624 Published online Nov. 12, 2009</p>	Multiple patents pending covering use in cancer treatment; licensed to an undisclosed party	<p>Tercel, M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 30, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm901202b</p> <p>Contact: Moana Tercel, The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand e-mail: m.tercel@auckland.ac.nz</p>