This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Microtubules	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> and cell culture study suggests that zampanolide, a macrolide compound isolated from a Tongan sea sponge, could help treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, zampanolide stabilized microtubules at concentrations comparable to those for paclitaxel, a generic cancer drug. Cultured tumor cells given zampanolide showed cell-cycle arrest and reduced growth compared with mock-treated cells. Next steps include synthesizing zampanolide or scaling up the purification of the native compound to conduct animal studies.</p> <p>SciBX 2(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1657 Published online Nov. 19, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Field, J.J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 30, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm901249g Contact: John H. Miller, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand e-mail: john.h.miller@vuw.ac.nz Contact: Peter T. Northcote, same affiliation as above e-mail: peter.northcote@vuw.ac.nz</p>