This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Telomerase	<p>A study in cell culture identified an isaindigotone-based, DNA G-quadruplex-specific telomerase inhibitor that may help treat cancer. In leukemia and lymphoma cell lines, the derivative lowered cell viability with IC₅₀ values of 33 and 29 μM, respectively. In both cell lines, the compound induced accelerated senescence. Ongoing efforts include generating a library of isaindigotone derivatives to identify an optimal candidate for clinical studies.</p> <p>GV1001, a cancer vaccine targeting human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTERT) from Pharmexa A/S, is in Phase III testing to treat pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>At least four other companies have compounds inhibiting telomerase activity in Phase II or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.650 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Preparation of <i>bis</i> (alkylamino)-substituted quinazalone compounds as antitumor agents covered by a pending patent in China; unavailable for licensing	<p>Tan, J.-H. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 8, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801600m</p> <p>Contact: Lian-Quan Gu, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China e-mail: cesglq@mail.sysu.edu.cn</p> <p>Contact: Shi-Liang Huang, same affiliation as above e-mail: ceshzs@mail.sysu.edu.cn</p>