This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Lung cancer	E-cadherin; histone deacetylase (HDAC); semaphorin 3F (SEMA3F)	<p>A study in cell culture identified benzofuranone-based HDAC inhibitors that could help treat lung cancer. In non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) cells, two of the molecules inhibited cell proliferation with nanomolar IC₅₀ values. The HDAC inhibitors also stimulated expression of E-cadherin and SEMA3F, which are tumor suppressor genes. Next steps include developing additional selective HDAC inhibitors.</p> <p>Zolinza vorinostat, an HDAC inhibitor from Merck & Co. Inc., is marketed to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL).</p> <p>Belinostat, a small molecule HDAC inhibitor from TopoTarget A/S, is in Phase III testing to treat T cell lymphoma.</p> <p>At least 15 other companies have HDAC inhibitors in Phase II or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.787 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Charrier, C. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 22, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9002439</p> <p>Contact: Philippe Bertrand, University of Poitiers, Poitiers, France e-mail: philippe.bertrand@univ-poitiers.fr</p>