This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Cancer; neurology	Aldo-keto reductase family 1 member C1 (AKR1C1)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified an AKR1C1 inhibitor that could help treat conditions ranging from premature birth to neurological diseases and cancer. <i>In vitro</i> , the salicylic acid derivative 3-bromo-5-phenylsalicylic acid inhibited the enzyme with 21-fold selectivity over AKR1C2. In AKR1C1-overexpressing cells, the new compound prevented progesterone metabolism with an IC ₅₀ value of 460 nM. Next steps include continuing efforts to optimize the compounds and evaluating them in cancer cells. SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.809 Published online May 14, 2009	Compounds unpatented; unavailable for licensing	El-Kabbani, O. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online April 27, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9001633 Contact: Ossama El-Kabbani, Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Parkville, Victoria, Australia e-mail: ossama.el-kabbani@pharm.monash.edu.au