This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Cannabinoid CB ₂ receptor (CNR2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies identified 1,8-naphthyridin-2(1<i>H</i>)-on-3-carboxamide derivatives that could help treat pain and cancer. The derivatives inhibited proliferation of CNR2-expressing human leukemic T cells. Next steps include studying the pharmacokinetic properties of the identified compounds.</p> <p>GW Pharmaceuticals plc markets Sativex sublingual cannabis extract spray in Canada to treat various pain indications.</p> <p>At least five other companies have compounds targeting cannabinoid receptors in Phase II or earlier to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.864 Published online May 28, 2009</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing from the University of Pisa	<p>Manera, C. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 13, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801563d</p> <p>Contact: Tiziano Tuccinardi, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy e-mail: tuccinardi@farm.unipi.it</p> <p>Contact: Giuseppe Saccomanni, same affiliation as above e-mail: gsacco@farm.unipi.it</p>