This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Histone deacetylase (HDAC)	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture identified a class I selective ketone HDAC inhibitor that could be useful for treating cancer. In a mouse xenograft model of human colorectal cancer, 10 mg/kg of one of the class I selective ketone HDAC inhibitors decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle control treatment. The degree of growth inhibition was comparable to 100 mg/kg of Zolinza vorinostat, an HDAC inhibitor from Merck & Co. Inc. Merck did not disclose next steps. Zolinza is marketed to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL). Belinostat, a small molecule HDAC inhibitor from TopoTarget A/S, is in Phase III testing to treat T cell lymphoma. At least 15 other companies have HDAC inhibitors in Phase II or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.865 Published online May 28, 2009</p>	Compounds patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Kinzel, O. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 14, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9004303</p> <p>Contact: Olaf Kinzel, Merck Research Laboratories, Pomezia, Italy e-mail: olaf_kinzel@merck.com</p>