This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Topoisomerase I (TOP1)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture identified edotecarin-based TOP1 inhibitors that could help treat cancer. In a panel of four human cancer cell lines, multiple edotecarin derivatives inhibited proliferation with IC₅₀ values in the nanomolar to picomolar range. In two mouse xenograft models of human cancer, three of the most active edotecarin derivatives had higher antitumor activity than edotecarin. Next steps could include evaluating the lead derivatives in additional preclinical cancer models.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets the TOP1 inhibitor Camptosar irinotecan to treat colon cancer and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).</p> <p>Hycamtin topotecan, a topoisomerase inhibitor from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is marketed to treat small cell lung cancer and cervical cancer.</p> <p>At least 14 other companies have TOP1 inhibitors in Phase III or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.869 Published online May 28, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Sunami, S. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 27, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801641t</p> <p>Contact: Satoshi Sunami, Banyu Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Ibaraki, Japan e-mail: satoshi_sunami@merck.com</p>