This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Protein kinase C δ (PRKCD)	<p>Studies in cell culture identified two aplysiatoxin-based PRKCD activators that could be useful for treating cancer. The analogs inhibited growth across a panel of 39 cancer cell lines. A separate cellular assay showed that the most active analog could block the tumor-promoting effects of 12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol 13-acetate. Next steps include evaluating the analog <i>in vivo</i> for potential side effects and increasing the efficiency of its synthesis process.</p> <p>Midostaurin, a protein kinase Cα (PRKCA) inhibitor from Novartis AG, is in Phase III testing for cancer.</p> <p>Ingenol mebutate gel, an ingenol 3-angeloyl topical formulation targeting PRKCA and PRKCD from Peplin Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat basal cell carcinoma (BCC).</p> <p>SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.902 Published online June 4, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Nakagawa, Y. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online May 18, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja808447r</p> <p>Contact: Kazuhiro Irie, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: irie@kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp</p>