This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Tubulin	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that tubulin-disrupting, 2-aryl-4-benzoyl-imidazole compounds could help treat drug-resistant cancer. In melanoma cells resistant to multiple microtubule-disrupting drugs, the compounds had about 25–70-fold lower resistance indexes than paclitaxel, vinblastine or colchicine. In xenograft mice with melanoma tumors, one compound significantly decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle controls ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include further optimizing the pharmacokinetics of the imidazole compounds. Paclitaxel, vinblastine and colchicine are generic microtubule-binding drugs used to treat cancer. SciBX 3(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1260 Published online Oct. 28, 2010	Patent application filed; licensed by GTx Inc.	Chen, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 4, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100884b Contact: Wei Li, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: wli@uthsc.edu