This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Topoisomerase II α (TOP2A)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that thiosemicarbazone-based inhibitors of TOP2A could help treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, a lead compound showed nanomolar cytotoxicity in human cancer cell lines. In sarcoma-bearing mice, the lead compound reduced tumor growth by up to 77% compared with no treatment. Ongoing work includes testing the lead compound in additional animal models of cancer.</p> <p>Antisoma plc's TOP2A inhibitor, amonafide L-malate (AS1413), is in Phase III testing to treat secondary acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). Sunesis Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s TOP2A inhibitor, Voreloxin (SNS-595), is in Phase II testing to treat AML and platinum-resistant ovarian cancer. ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals Ltd.'s TOP2A inhibitor, Quinamed amonafide dihydrochloride, is in Phase II testing to treat breast, ovarian and prostate cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.430 Published online April 8, 2010</p>	Patented by the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica; available for licensing	<p>Huang, H. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 30, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm9014394</p> <p>Contact: Hong Liu, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China e-mail: hliu@mail.shcnc.ac.cn</p> <p>Contact: Linghua Meng, same affiliation as above e-mail: lhmeng@mail.shcnc.ac.cn</p>