This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Colorectal cancer	Histone deacetylase (HDAC)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that propenamide-derived HDAC inhibitors could help treat colorectal cancer. In cell culture, a series of propenamide compounds inhibited HDAC activity and cell proliferation with efficacy similar to that of the HDAC inhibitor suberoylanilide hydroxamic acid (SAHA). In a mouse xenograft model of colorectal cancer, the best of the new compounds had a higher half-life than SAHA, and lower doses of the compound than those used for SAHA produced similar reductions in tumor volume. Next steps include optimization of oral availability and selection of candidates for clinical studies.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. markets Zolinza vorinostat (SAHA) for cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL). At least eight other companies have HDAC inhibitors in various stages of clinical development to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.82 Published online Jan. 21, 2010</p>	Patented; available for licensing from Genextra Group	<p>Thaler, F. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Dec. 17, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm901502p</p> <p>Contact: Florian Thaler, European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy e-mail: florian.thaler@ifom-ileo-campus.it</p>