This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Kinesin spindle protein (KSP; Eg5; TRIP5); P glycoprotein (ABCB1; MDR1; P-gp; CD243)	<p>A study in cell culture identified a dihydropyrimidine-based Eg5 inhibitor that could help treat multidrug-resistant cancers. In a panel of human cervical carcinoma cell lines, an analog of fluorastron bound to Eg5 and inhibited cellular proliferation with micromolar to submicromolar IC₅₀ values. Fluorastron is a small molecule dihydropyrimidine-based inhibitor of Eg5. Next steps could include optimizing the Eg5 inhibitor to improve its pharmacokinetics and potency. At least eight companies have Eg5 inhibitors in Phase II testing or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.888 Published online July 29, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kaan, H.Y.K. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online July 2, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100421n</p> <p>Contact: Frank Kozielski, The Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: f.kozielski@beatson.gla.ac.uk</p>