This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Tumor protein p53 (TP53; p53); mdm2 p53 binding protein homolog (MDM2; HDM2)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that a liposome-delivered peptide inhibitor of the p53-MDM2 interaction could help treat cancer. In mice bearing either subcutaneous or intracranial p53-expressing glioma tumors, injection of liposome-encapsulated D-peptide decreased tumor growth and increased survival to levels comparable to those seen with injection of liposome-encapsulated doxorubicin. Ongoing work includes optimizing and testing the D-peptide inhibitor in animal models of other cancers.</p> <p>Roche's MDM2 antagonist, RG7112, is in Phase I testing to treat solid and hematological tumors. Johnson & Johnson's MDM2 antagonist, JNJ-26854165, is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors. Ascenta Therapeutics Inc. has two inhibitors of the p53-MDM2 interaction, AT-219 and MI-147, in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.952 Published online Aug. 12, 2010</p>	Patent application for D-peptide inhibitors of MDM2 filed by the University of Maryland, Baltimore; patent application for liposomal delivery of D-peptide inhibitors filed by Fudan University; available for licensing	<p>Liu, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 26, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1008930107</p> <p>Contact: Wuyuan Lu, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: wlu@ihv.umaryland.edu</p> <p>Contact: Wei-Yue Lu, Fudan University School of Pharmacy, Shanghai, China e-mail: wylu@shmu.edu.cn</p>