This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing 2 (BIRC2; cIAP1); BIRC3 (cIAP2); x-linked inhibitor of apoptosis (XIAP)	<p>A study in mice identified bivalent inhibitors of cIAP1, cIAP2 and XIAP that could help treat cancer. In a mouse model of human breast cancer, the lead inhibitor was safe and produced dose-dependent decreases in tumor growth compared with vehicle. Next steps include evaluating the lead inhibitor of apoptosis (IAP) inhibitor in additional <i>in vivo</i> models. AT-406, an oral IAP antagonist from Ascenta Therapeutics Inc. and Ascentage Pharma Group Corp., is in Phase I development for cancer. At least 11 companies have compounds that block IAP signaling in Phase II trials or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.479 Published online April 28, 2011</p>	Compounds patented; exclusively licensed to Ascenta Therapeutics	<p>Sun, H. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 4, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm101651b</p> <p>Contact: Shaomeng Wang, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: shaomeng@umich.edu</p>