This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Small cell lung cancer	B cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2); Bcl-X _L	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies identified inhibitors of BCL-2 and Bcl-X_L that could help treat small cell lung cancer. In human small cell lung cancer lines, 4,5-diphenyl-1<i>H</i>-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid-based BCL-2 and Bcl-X_L inhibitors designed using structure-based optimization induced cell death more potently than clinical-stage inhibitors, including ABT-263. In mouse xenograft models of human small cell lung cancer, the most potent inhibitor induced apoptosis and tumor regression that prevented tumor growth for at least 15 days. Next steps could include testing the inhibitors in additional animal models of small cell lung cancer.</p> <p>Abbott Laboratories and Roche's Genentech Inc. unit have the BCL-2-family protein inhibitor ABT-263 in Phase I/II testing to treat small cell lung cancer.</p> <p>At least seven other companies have inhibitors of BCL-2-family proteins in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1082 Published online Oct. 18, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Chen, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 2, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm3010306 Contact: Shaomeng Wang, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: shaomeng@umich.edu</p>