This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Topoisomerase I (TOP1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest fluorinated camptothecin could be used to treat cancer. α-Fluoroether-modified camptothecins had greater stability in phosphate buffered saline than unmodified camptothecin and maintained inhibitory activity against TOP1. In human lung, breast and colon cancer cells, the fluorinated camptothecins decreased proliferation compared with vehicle. In mouse xenograft models of human lung cancer, one of the compounds had antitumor activity comparable to that of the camptothecin topotecan. Next steps include optimizing a clinical candidate from the series.</p> <p>SciBX 6(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1219 Published online Nov. 7, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Miao, Z. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 26, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400906z Contact: Wannian Zhang, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China e-mail: zhangwnk@hotmail.com Contact: Chunquan Sheng, same affiliation as above e-mail: shengcq@hotmail.com Contact: Zhenyuan Miao, same affiliation as above e-mail: miaozhenyuan@hotmail.com</p>