This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Tubulin	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified tubulin polymerization inhibitors that could help treat cancer. In seven cancer cell lines, inhibitors from the series showed more potent inhibition of proliferation than the parent compound. The most potent compounds inhibited tubulin polymerization and induced mitochondrial dysfunction and apoptosis in cancer cells but not in normal human lymphocytes. In mice with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) tumors, the most potent compound decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include optimizing the lead compound and testing it in additional animal cancer models.</p> <p>SciBX 6(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.260 Published online March 21, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Romagnoli, R. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 28, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400043d Contact: Giampietro Viola, University of Padua, Padua, Italy e-mail: giampietro.viola1@unipd.it Contact: Pier Giovanni Baraldi, University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy e-mail: pgb@unife.it Contact: Romeo Romagnoli, same affiliation as above e-mail: rmr@unife.it</p>