This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Vasolin containing protein (VCP; p97)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified two new classes of VCP inhibitors that could help treat cancer. High throughput screening of a small molecule library and <i>in vitro</i> testing identified two hits. One inhibited VCP via covalent binding of its ATPase site and the other by noncovalent binding of an allosteric site. Optimization of the allosteric site-binding hit yielded a lead compound that bound VCP and inhibited growth of multiple human cancer cell lines at nanomolar to low micromolar IC₅₀ values. Future work by Nerviano Medical Sciences s.r.l. and its collaborator, the Genentech Inc. unit of Roche, could include testing the lead allosteric inhibitor in animal models of cancer.</p> <p>Cleave Biosciences Inc. has a discovery-stage VCP inhibitor program to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.859 Published online Aug. 22, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Magnaghi, P. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online July 28, 2013; doi:10.1038/nchembio.1313 Contact: Paola Magnaghi, Nerviano Medical Sciences s.r.l., Nerviano, Italy e-mail: paola.magnaghi@nervianoms.com</p>