This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Aldosterone synthase (ALDOS; CYP11B2); cytochrome P450 17 α -hydroxylase/C17, 20 lyase (CYP17)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified dual CYP17 and CYP11B2 inhibitors that could help treat prostate cancer. Current CYP17 inhibitors block androgen synthases but cause cardiovascular side effects associated with elevated levels of aldosterone. In cellular assays, 2-(3-pyridyl)-naphthalene-based compounds potently and selectively inhibited both CYP17 and CYP11B2 compared with closely related enzymes. Next steps could include testing the dual inhibitors in prostate cancer models.</p> <p>BTG plc and Johnson & Johnson market Zytiga abiraterone acetate, an inhibitor of CYP17, to treat prostate cancer.</p> <p>Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.'s orteronel, a nonsteroidal, selective inhibitor of CYP17, is in Phase III testing for the same indication. At least two other companies have CYP17 inhibitors in Phase II testing or earlier to treat prostate cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.860 Published online Aug. 22, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Pinto-Bazurco Mendieta, M.A.E. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online July 16, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400484p</p> <p>Contact: Rolf W. Hartmann, Saarland University and the Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland, Saarbruecken, Germany e-mail: rolf.hartmann@helmholtz-hzi.de</p>