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 suggest a new class of tubulin inhibitors could help treat cancer. Chemical synthesis and <i>in vitro</i> testing of 4-(<i>N</i>-cycloamino)quinazolines identified a lead compound that inhibited tubulin polymerization at a low micromolar IC₅₀ value and inhibited growth of several human cancer lines, including a vincristine-resistant mouth carcinoma, at nanomolar GI₅₀ values. In mice bearing xenograft breast tumors, the compound decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle. Ongoing work includes optimizing the lead compound and testing it in mouse models of other cancers.</p> <p>The tubulin inhibitor vincristine is a generic chemotherapeutic.</p> <p>SciBX 7(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.222 Published online Feb. 27, 2014</p>	Patent application filed by the Beijing Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology; available for licensing or partnering	<p>Wang, X.-F. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 6, 2014; doi:10.1021/jm4016526</p> <p>Contact: Lan Xie, Beijing Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Beijing, China e-mail: lanxie4@gmail.com</p> <p>Contact: Kuo-Hsiung Lee, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: khlee@unc.edu</p>