This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK); VEGF-A	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies identified apratoxin analogs that could be useful for treating cancer. Apratoxins are cyanobacteria-derived compounds that downregulate expression of genes including RTKs. In a human colorectal cancer cell line, the analogs reduced viability and VEGF-A secretion with single-digit nanomolar to subnanomolar IC₅₀ values. In a mouse xenograft model of human colorectal cancer, injection of an apratoxin analog caused a dose-dependent decrease in tumor growth compared with vehicle injection. Next steps could include evaluating the lead analog in additional mouse models of cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 7(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.486 Published online May 1, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Chen, Q.-Y. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 24, 2014; doi:10.1021/jm4019965</p> <p>Contact: Hendrik Luesch, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. e-mail: luesch@cop.ufl.edu</p>