

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	Unknown	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that water-soluble phosphine copper(I) complexes could be useful for treating cancer. The phosphine compound [Cu(thp) <sub>4</sub> ][PF <sub>6</sub> ] <sub>4</sub> had IC <sub>50</sub> values of 0.6–11.1 μM against a panel of tumor cell lines compared with values of 10.5–35.4 μM for cisplatin, a generic platinum-based chemotherapeutic marketed to treat multiple cancers. The complexes inhibited the growth of tumor cells via G2/M cell-cycle arrest. Next steps include studying the copper-based chemotherapeutics in animal models of cancer.	Italian patent application filed covering use of various [Cu(thp) <sub>4</sub> ] <sub>n</sub> complexes to treat cancer; available for licensing	Marzano, C. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Feb. 6, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm701146c <b>Contact:</b> Carlo Santini, Università di Padova, Via Marzolo 5, Padova, Italy e-mail: <a href="mailto:carlo.santini@unicam.it">carlo.santini@unicam.it</a> <b>Contact:</b> Cristina Marzano, same affiliation as above e-mail: <a href="mailto:cristina.marzano@unipd.it">cristina.marzano@unipd.it</a>