

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	p53; MDM2	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> study suggests that MI-219, a spirooxindole compound, could help activate p53 and thus be useful for treating cancer. In about 50% of human cancers, the proapoptotic activity of p53 is functional but suppressed by MDM2. MI-219 was designed to disrupt p53-MDM2 interactions. In two different murine xenograft models of cancer, MI-219 lowered both cell proliferation and tumor volume compared with vehicle. Next steps include clinical trials.</p> <p>Ascenta Therapeutics Inc. has at least one other MDM2 inhibitor, MI-147, in preclinical development to treat cancer.</p> <p>Nutlin, a small-molecule MDM2 antagonist from Roche, is in preclinical development to treat cancer.</p>	Patent application filed; technology licensed to Ascenta Therapeutics Inc.	<p>Shangary <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 2, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0708917105</p> <p>Contact: Shaomeng Wang, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: shaomeng@umichigan.edu</p>