

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	Histone deacetylase (HDAC)	An SAR study identified small molecule ketone HDAC inhibitors that could be useful for treating cancer. One of the compounds, a 4-phenylimidazole ketone, had submicromolar antiproliferative activity in cervical, colon and kidney cell lines and micromolar activity in lung and ovarian cell lines—a profile similar to that of Zolinza vorinostat, an HDAC inhibitor from Merck & Co. Inc. that is marketed to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL). In a human colon HCT-116 carcinoma xenograft model, the 4-phenylimidazole ketone produced dose-dependent inhibition of tumor growth that was comparable to that from vorinostat. Next steps include developing ketone HDAC inhibitor analogs with improved activity and pharmacokinetics.	Patented; not available for licensing	Jones, P. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 28, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm8900079s <b>Contact:</b> Philip Jones, IRBM/Merck Research Laboratories, Pomezia, Italy e-mail: <a href="mailto:Philip_jones@merck.com">Philip_jones@merck.com</a>