

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90)	An SAR study suggests that oxime derivatives of the Hsp90 inhibitor pochonin D could be used to treat cancer. A library of pochonin D derivatives was screened for optimal Hsp90 affinity and inhibition, as well as toxicity to cultured breast cancer cells. In mice with breast tumor xenografts, some of the compounds halted tumor growth compared with that in mock-treated controls, and they reduced baseline tumor volume by 18%. Next steps include Phase I testing of the compounds to treat cancer. No fewer than nine companies have Hsp90 inhibitors for various cancer indications in development stages ranging from preclinical to Phase II/III.	Patented by Louis Pasteur University and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS); licensed by NexGenix Pharmaceuticals Inc.	Barluenga, S. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online April 25, 2008; doi:10.1002/anie.200800233 Contact: Nicolas Winssinger, Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg, France e-mail: winssinger@isis.u-strasbg.fr