

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Bcl-2 family of proteins	An SAR study identified a series of small-molecule acylpyrogallol analogs that inhibited Bcl-2 proteins, which are antiapoptotic proteins that are overexpressed in many cancers. The most potent inhibitor bound to Bcl-2 with an IC ₅₀ of 170 nM. The compound induced apoptosis and inhibited cell growth in human breast and prostate cancer cells with IC ₅₀ values of 120 and 260 nM, respectively. Next steps include pharmacological and toxicological studies of the lead compounds. At least five companies have Bcl-2 inhibitors in preclinical and clinical development to treat various types of cancer.	A patent cooperation treaty patent has been filed by the University of Michigan for the acylpyrogallol analogs; exclusively licensed to Ascenta Therapeutics Inc.	Tang, G. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Feb. 1, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm701358v Contact: Shaomeng Wang, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Pharmacology, and Medicinal Chemistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: shaomeng@umich.edu