

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Colon cancer	Not applicable	<p>An SAR study identified seven derivatives of the natural product peptide sansalvamide A that might have utility in treating cancer. The compounds had IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.7–4.5 μM against HCT15 and HCT116 drug-resistant colon cancer cell lines, which was about a 15-fold improvement over gemcitabine. Preliminary data indicate that one of the compounds binds to the C-terminal site of Hsp90. Next steps include <i>in vivo</i> toxicity and cell-based gene expression studies of the compounds.</p> <p>The nucleoside analog Gemzar gemcitabine is marketed by Eli Lilly and Co. to treat breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer and pancreatic cancer.</p>	U.S. and international patent applications filed covering the making and use of ~100 cyclic pentapeptides derived from sansalvamide A; option to exclusively license the patents granted to Cancer Research UK's Cancer Research Technology Ltd. subsidiary	Otrubova, K. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published Jan. 11, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm070731a <b>Contact:</b> Shelli R. McAlpine, San Diego State University, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: <a href="mailto:mcalpine@chemistry.sdsu.edu">mcalpine@chemistry.sdsu.edu</a>