

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	B cell CLL/lymphoma 2 (Bcl-2); inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate receptors (IP3R)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that inhibiting Bcl-2-IP3R interactions could potentially help treat cancer and other disorders susceptible to apoptosis. Bcl-2 prevents apoptotic induction by inhibiting calcium release from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). IP3R is an ER calcium channel. In cell culture, an interaction between Bcl-2 and IP3R was detected using Förster resonance energy transfer (FRET) methods. In anti-CD3-treated cultured cells, treatment with an IP3R-derived 20-amino-acid peptide increased intracellular calcium ($p=0.005$) and triggered apoptosis ($p=0.0099$) compared with cells that received control peptide. Next steps include further development of the Bcl-2-IP3R interaction-inhibiting peptide to improve its cell permeability. At least eight companies are targeting Bcl-2 to treat various cancers in preclinical to Phase II clinical development.	Provisional patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	Rong, Y. <i>et al. Mol. Cell</i> ; published online July 24, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2008.06.014 Contact: Clark Distelhorst, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: clark.distelhorst@case.edu