

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Pancreatic cancer	Histone deacetylase (HDAC)	<p>Biochemical and cell culture studies suggest that hydroxamate-based HDAC inhibitors could be useful for treating pancreatic cancer. Inhibitors were synthesized using nitrile oxide cycloaddition chemistry. One hydroxamate-based HDAC inhibitor showed ~2-picomolar potency against HDAC6. In a panel of pancreatic cancer cell lines, several of the inhibitors were ~10-fold more potent at blocking cell growth than suberoylanilide hydroxamic acid (SAHA). Further studies testing the compounds in human pancreatic xenograft models are underway. Next steps include pharmacokinetic and toxicology studies of the new compounds.</p> <p>No fewer than 12 companies have HDAC inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat various cancers.</p>	Patented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Kozikowski, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online July 22, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm8002894</p> <p>Contact: Daniel D. Billadeau, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. e-mail: Billadeau.Daniel@mayo.edu</p> <p>Contact: Alan P. Kozikowski, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: Kozikowa@uic.edu</p>