

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL)	B cell lymphoma 2 (BCL2; BCL-2) histone deacetylase 7 (HDAC7)	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study suggests that combination therapy with an HDAC7 inhibitor and a BCL-2 antagonist may help treat HDAC inhibitor-resistant CTCL. In patient-derived CTCL cells, the pan-HDAC inhibitor panobinostat prevented HDAC7 activity and induced apoptosis. In CTCL cells resistant to HDAC inhibitors, co-treatment with panobinostat and the BCL-2 antagonist ABT-737 increased apoptosis compared with using ABT-737 alone or what was seen in vehicle-treated controls. Next steps include evaluating the combination in a clinical study.</p> <p>Zolinza vorinostat, an HDAC inhibitor from Merck &amp; Co. Inc., is marketed to treat CTCL.</p> <p>Panobinostat, an HDAC inhibitor from Novartis AG, is in Phase II/III testing to treat CTCL.</p> <p>Genasense, an antisense agent targeting BCL-2 mRNA from Genta Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>ABT-737, a small molecule inhibitor of BCL-2 family proteins from Abbott Laboratories and Pfizer Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Chen, J. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Dec. 12, 2008; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-08-176024</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Kapil N. Bhalla, Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center, Augusta, Ga. e-mail: <a href="mailto:kbhalla@mcg.edu">kbhalla@mcg.edu</a></p>
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