This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Smoothened (SMO); suppressor of fused homolog (SUFU)	A high throughput screen identified four hedgehog pathway inhibitors that could provide scaffolds for the development of cancer therapies. Studies in human embryonic kidney cells identified four inhibitors that acted downstream of SUFU in the hedgehog pathway and indirectly inhibited SMO activity. In neuronal progenitor cells with oncogenic hedgehog gene expression, two of the molecules significantly inhibited proliferation compared with the hedgehog signaling inhibitor cyclopamine (p<0.0005). Next steps include identifying the direct cellular targets of the inhibitors and evaluating the compounds in mouse models of hedgehog-mediated cancers. GDC-0449, a small molecule SMO antagonist from Roche's Genentech Inc. unit and Curis Inc., is in Phase I and Phase II trials for various forms of cancer. Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s IPI-926, a hedgehog pathway inhibitor derived from cyclopamine, is in Phase I testing to treat advanced solid tumors. The compound is partnered with Mundipharma International Ltd.	Patent pending covering discovery of compounds; unavailable for licensing	Hyman, J.M. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Aug. 3, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0907134106 **Contact:** James K. Chen, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: jameschen@stanford.edu

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