

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Not applicable	<p>Synthetic studies and <i>in vitro</i> assays identified a total synthesis strategy for natural cancer therapeutics silvestrol and episilvestrol that could potentially be used to guide development of more potent analogs. The strategy was used to synthesize the two natural compounds as well as 4'-desmethoxyepisilvestrol, an analog of the molecules. The three synthesized compounds prevented proliferation of the lung cancer cell line A549 and colon cancer cells. The analog showed about four times greater activity than the natural compounds in the lung cancer cells. Studies <i>in vivo</i> are ongoing to determine the activity and toxicity of 4'-desmethoxyepisilvestrol.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.134 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	<p>Synthesis strategy patented; licensing status unavailable</p>	<p>Adams, T. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Jan. 13, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja808402e</p> <p>Contact: Mark A. Rizzacasa, The University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: masr@unimelb.edu.au</p>