

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α (HIF1A; HIF1 α); HIF1B (HIF1 β)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that acriflavine, a small molecule antimicrobial, could help treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, acriflavine blocked formation of the HIF1A/HIF1B dimer complex, which is required for DNA binding and activation of hypoxia-responsive, proangiogenic genes. In a xenograft mouse model of prostate cancer, the compound blocked growth of established tumors compared with vehicle. Next steps include acquiring pharmaceutical-grade acriflavine for testing in the clinic.</p> <p>EZN-2968 (formerly SPC2968), a HIF1A mRNA antagonist from Enzon Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Santaris Pharma A/S, is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors and lymphoma. PX-478, a small molecule inhibitor of HIF1A from Oncothyreon Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1466 Published online Oct. 8, 2009</p>	Findings patented; available for licensing	<p>Lee, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 1, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0909353106</p> <p>Contact: Gregg L. Semenza, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: gsemenza@jhmi.edu</p>