This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Mitochondrial transporter	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that an analog of GSAO could help treat cancer. The new analog, 4-(*N*-(*S*-penicil laminylacetyl)amino)phenylarsonous acid, accumulated in endothelial cells about 85 times faster than 4-(*N*-(*S*-glutathionylacetyl)amino)phenylarsonous acid (GSAO) due to more efficient entry and less removal by multidrug resistance–associated proteins. In cancer cell lines, the new analog had a 44-fold increase in antiproliferative activity compared with GSAO. The analog was also 20-fold more effective at inhibiting pancreatic carcinoma tumor growth in mice. Next steps include Phase I/IIa testing of the compound. Arsenical GSAO is a tripeptide that inactivates mitochondrial adenine nucleotide translocase. The compound blocks angiogenesis and has shown activity in preclinical models of cancer. *SciBX* **2**(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1467 **Published online Oct. 8, 2009**	Findings patented; available for licensing	Dilda, P. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online Sept. 29, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm9008339 **Contact:** Philip J. Hogg, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia e-mail: p.hogg@unsw.edu.au