



This week in therapeutics

The West in the apealog				
Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1); mTOR complex 1 (mTORC1); mTORC2	Studies in cell culture identified pyrazolopyrimidine analogs as mTOR inhibitors that could help treat cancer. In human renal and gliomal cancer cell lines, the lead compound inhibited mTORC1, mTORC2 and a rapamycin-resistant mutant variant of mTORC1. Results of ongoing work will be reported in upcoming publications. Novartis AG's oral mTOR inhibitor Certican/Afinitor everolimus is marketed to prevent organ transplant rejection, approved to treat renal cancer and in multiple Phase I through Phase III trials to treat a range of cancers. Exelixis Inc. and sanofi-aventis Group's XL765, a small molecule inhibitor of mTOR and phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K), is in Phase I/II testing to treat brain cancer and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and Phase I testing to treat solid tumors. OSI Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s mTOR inhibitor OSI-027 is in Phase I testing to treat lymphoma.	Patented by Pfizer Inc.; licensing status undisclosed	Nowak, P. et al. J. Med. Chem.; published online Oct. 19, 2009 doi:10.1021/jm9012642 Contact: Pawel Nowak, Pfizer Pharma Therapeutics, Pearl River, N.Y. e-mail: nowakp@wyeth.com
		SciBX 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1563 Published online Oct. 29, 2009		