

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	Not applicable	<p>Total synthesis of vinblastine and its analogs could lead to new compounds for treating cancer, including vinblastine-resistant tumors. Vinblastine and vindoline are alkaloids derived from <i>Catharanthus roseus</i> but are available only in limited quantities from the plant source. A biomimetic coupling between catharanthine and vindoline yielded vinblastine in a single step, and vinblastine and &gt;40 analogs were synthesized. Ongoing work includes synthesis of additional vinblastine analogs by the new route and the exploration of alternative synthetic routes to vinblastine analogs. Vinblastine is a generic antimetabolic agent marketed to treat multiple cancers.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.527</b>  <b>Published online April 2, 2009</b></p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Ishikawa, H. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online March 17, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja809842b  <b>Contact:</b> Dale L. Boger, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif.                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:boger@scripps.edu">boger@scripps.edu</a></p>