

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Endocrine disease				
Contraception; ovarian cancer	Luteinizing hormone/choriogonadotropin receptor (LHCGR; LHR)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a series of terphenyls could treat ovarian cancer related to menopause and/or could function as contraceptives. A library screen identified a potent terphenyl inhibitor of LHCGR. Synthesis and <i>in vitro</i> screening of >15 analogs of the compound identified a more potent carbamate derivative. In assays, the lead compound allosterically modulated LHCGR-ligand binding. Future studies could include evaluation of the lead compound in animal models of contraception or ovarian cancer. Merck KGaA markets Ovidrel, recombinant human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) targeting LHCGR, to treat infertility. SciBX 2(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.535 Published online April 2, 2009	Patented; available for licensing from Leiden University Research and Innovation Services Contact: Emilie Levivier, Leiden University Research and Innovation Services, Leiden, the Netherlands Phone number: +31 71 526-5596 e-mail: e.levivier@LURIS.nl	Heitman, L. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 18, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801561h Contact: Laura H. Heitman, Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands e-mail: l.h.heitman@lacdr.leidenuniv.nl