This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Prostate cancer	Androgen receptor (AR)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice identified noncompetitive inhibitors of AR that could help treat prostate cancer. In human prostate cancer cell lines, the compounds pyrvinium and harmol lowered expression of androgen-responsive genes and inhibited cell proliferation. Wild-type mice receiving the AR competitive inhibitor bicalutamide alone or in combination with pyrvinium had prostate reductions of 35% and 74%, respectively, compared with those seen in untreated controls. Future studies could include testing the potential therapeutic effect of pyrvinium and harmol in other AR-related diseases. The generic pyrvinium pamoate is approved to treat parasitic worm infections.</p> <p>Harmol is a natural product found in many plants. AstraZeneca plc markets Casodex bicalutamide to treat prostate cancer. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co's AR antagonist BMS-641988 is in Phase I testing to treat prostate cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.619 Published online April 16, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Jones, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 6, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0807282106</p> <p>Contact: Marc I. Diamond, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: marc.diamond@ucsf.edu</p>