This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90)	<p>A study in cell culture identified geldanamycin-based Hsp90 inhibitors that could be useful for treating cancer. In a panel of four human cancer cell lines, three compounds inhibited proliferation with IC_{50} values in the 23–520 nM range compared with 68–2,500 nM for the parent compound. Next steps include studying the efficacy and pharmacological profiles of the analogs.</p> <p>Tanespimycin (17-(allylamino)-17-demethoxygeldanamycin (17-AAG)), an Hsp90 inhibitor from the Kosan Biosciences Inc. unit of Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is in Phase III testing to treat multiple myeloma (MM).</p> <p>Hypericin, a topical phototherapeutic agent that inhibits Hsp90 from Hy BioPharma Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL).</p> <p>At least 12 other companies have Hsp90 inhibitors in Phase II or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.823 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patent application filed covering geldanamycin-based compounds and method of use; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Tian, Z.-Q. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 30, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm900098v</p> <p>Contact: Yaoquan Liu, Kosan Biosciences, Inc., Hayward, Calif. e-mail: gyliu@comcast.net</p>