

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Aurora kinase A (AURKA; Aurora-A); AURKB (Aurora-B)	An <i>in vitro</i> and rodent study identified phthalazine-based compounds as AURKA- and AURKB-selective inhibitors that could help treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i> , the lead compound inhibited AURKA with an IC ₅₀ of 149 nM and AURKB with an IC ₅₀ of 22 nM. In a mouse model of human colorectal cancer, oral delivery of the phthalazine-based compound inhibited phosphorylation of histone H3, an Aurkb substrate, compared with delivery of vehicle control (<i>p</i> <0.0001). Next steps could include <i>in vivo</i> testing of the compound in animal cancer models. At least 12 companies have Aurora kinase inhibitors in Phase II or earlier for various cancers. SciBX 3(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1006 Published online Aug. 26, 2010	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Cee, V.J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Aug. 4, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100394y Contact: Victor J. Cee, Amgen Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: vcee@amgen.com