

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer; lung cancer	Phospholipase A ₂ group IVA cytosolic calcium-dependent (PLA ₂ G4A; cPLA ₂ -α); phospholipase A ₂ (PLA ₂)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that PLA₂G4A inhibitors could help treat brain and lung cancer. In mice injected with murine lung or brain cancer cells, <i>Pla₂g4a</i> deficiency resulted in the formation of fewer lung tumors and no brain tumors compared with wild-type <i>Pla₂g4a</i> expression. In mouse models of murine lung and brain cancer, a PLA₂ inhibitor decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle control. Ongoing work includes a collaboration with Pfizer Inc. to test the company's PLA₂G4A inhibitor in animal models of cancer.</p> <p>Morria Biopharmaceuticals plc's MRX4, a multifunctional anti-inflammatory compound that inhibits PLA₂, is in Phase II testing to treat allergic rhinitis. The company's MRX6, a topical multifunctional anti-inflammatory compound that inhibits PLA₂, is in Phase II testing for dermatitis. ImmuPharma plc's IPP-201007 PLA₂ inhibitor is in lead discovery to treat undisclosed inflammatory indications.</p>	Patented by Washington University in St. Louis; available for licensing	<p>Linkous, A.G. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Natl. Cancer Inst.</i>; published online Sept. 22, 2010; doi:10.1093/jnci/djq290</p> <p>Contact: Dennis E. Hallahan, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: dhallahan@radonc.wustl.edu</p> <p>Contact: Eugenia M. Yazlovitskaya, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: eugenia.yazlovitskaya@vanderbilt.edu</p>
<p>SciBX 3(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1143 Published online Sept. 30, 2010</p>				