

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Casein kinase 1 α (CSNK1A; CK1 α)	<p>Studies in cell culture identified pyrvinium as a CK1α activator that could help treat Wnt pathway-driven cancers. <i>In vitro</i>, pyrvinium bound and activated CK1α and increased β-catenin phosphorylation, which correlates with Wnt pathway inhibition, compared with other kinases and a vehicle control. In two human colorectal cancer cell lines with activated Wnt, pyrvinium decreased proliferation compared with vehicle. Next steps include developing pyrvinium analogs and evaluating them in mouse models of cancer. The generic pyrvinium pamoate is approved to treat parasitic worm infections.</p> <p>SciBX 3(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1203 Published online Oct. 14, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use of pyrvinium in cancer; available for licensing from the Vanderbilt University Office of Technology Transfer and Enterprise Development</p>	<p>Thorne, C.A. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Oct. 3, 2010; doi:10.1038/nchembio.453 Contact: Ethan Lee, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: ethan.lee@vanderbilt.edu</p>