

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Not applicable	<p>Studies in patient samples and in mice show that mitochondria-disrupting peptides could help treat cancer. Three mitochondria-disrupting peptides that do not normally cross the cytoplasmic membrane at low concentrations were conjugated to bombesin, a 14-amino-acid peptide. In blood samples from four acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients, the bombesin-conjugated peptides caused dose-dependent increases in cell death compared with no treatment. In a mouse xenograft model of human leukemia, two of the bombesin-conjugated peptides reduced tumor growth compared with phosphate buffer control. Next steps include evaluating the bombesin-conjugated peptides in additional animal models of cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.243 Published online Feb. 25, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; not available for licensing	<p>Cai, H. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i>; published online Feb. 8, 2010; doi:10.1021/mp900280s Contact: Xiaofeng Lu, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China e-mail: xiaofenglu@yahoo.com</p>