This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Autotaxin (ENPP2; ATX)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a small molecule inhibitor of ATX could help treat cancer. Compound library screening, lead optimization and <i>in vitro</i> testing identified a thiazolidinedione boronic acid compound as a low nanomolar inhibitor of ATX. The inhibitor reduced ATX activity in human plasma and lowered lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) levels in mice compared with no treatment. LPA plays a role in angiogenesis, cell migration and proliferation. Ongoing work includes testing the compound in animal models of cancer.</p> <p>Catena Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s LPA receptor antagonist, VPC51299, is in preclinical testing to treat ovarian cancer and organ fibrosis. Catena's VPC8 series of ATX inhibitors is in lead optimization.</p> <p>SciBX 3(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.427 Published online April 8, 2010</p>	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Albers, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 29, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1001529107</p> <p>Contact: Huib Ovaa, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: h.ovaa@nki.nl</p> <p>Contact: Wouter H. Moolenaar, same affiliation as above e-mail: w.moolenaar@nki.nl</p>