

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS)	Smoothened (SMO)	<p>Mouse studies suggest SMO agonists could help prevent the side effects of glucocorticoid treatment for RDS in newborns. Glucocorticoid use for RDS in human neonates increases the risk of cerebellar underdevelopment. In mice, a small molecule SMO agonist decreased glucocorticoid-induced neurotoxicity compared with vehicle. Next steps include toxicology studies of SMO agonists in additional animal models of glucocorticoid-induced brain injury. GDC-0449, a small molecule SMO antagonist from Roche's Genentech Inc. unit and Curis Inc., is in Phase II testing for cancer. Novartis AG's SMO antagonist LDE225 is in Phase II and Phase I trials for cancer. Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s IPI-926 SMO inhibitor is in Phase II and Phase I trials to treat cancer. Eli Lilly and Co.'s SMO antagonist LY2940680 is in Phase I trials to treat solid tumors (<i>see Lev's story, page X</i>).</p> <p>SciBX 4(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1246 Published online Nov. 10, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Heine, V.M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 19, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002731 Contact: David H. Rowitch, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: rowitchd@peds.ucsf.edu</p>