

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Collagen type I (COL1); thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1; THBS1); transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGFB1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that losartan could improve the efficacy of chemotherapies to treat cancer. In human cancer cells, losartan inhibited TSP-1 to decrease levels of active TGFB1 and subsequent COL1 production. In mice bearing xenograft fibrosarcoma or melanoma tumors, losartan plus liposomal doxorubicin reduced tumor growth compared with liposomal doxorubicin alone. Planned work includes clinical testing of losartan in combination with undisclosed therapies to treat cancers.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. markets Cozaar losartan, a generic antagonist of angiotensin II type 1 receptor (AGTR1), to treat hypertension, heart failure (HF), myocardial infarction (MI), diabetes and stroke.</p> <p>P144, a topical formulation of the TGFB1 inhibitor peptide 144 from Digna Biotech S.L. and Isdin S.A., has completed Phase II testing to treat scleroderma and Phase I testing to treat skin cancer and keratosis actinica.</p> <p>SciBX 4(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.189 Published online Feb. 17, 2011</p>	<p>Patented by Massachusetts General Hospital; available for licensing</p> <p>Contact: Lambert Edelmann, Partners Healthcare Research Ventures & Licensing, Boston, Mass. e-mail: ledelmann@partners.org</p>	<p>Diop-Frimpong, B. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 31, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1018892108</p> <p>Contact: Rakesh K. Jain, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jain@steele.mgh.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Yves Boucher, same affiliation as above e-mail: yves@steele.mgh.harvard.edu</p>