

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Ataxia telangiectasia and Rad3 related (ATR)	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study identified ATR inhibitors that may help increase the efficacy of DNA-damaging agents to treat cancer. ATR is a kinase involved in the cell's DNA damage response. <i>In vitro</i>, the lead 3-amino-6-arylpyrazine-based molecule inhibited ATR with an IC_{50} of 12 nM. The inhibitor also increased the potency of cisplatin by 7-fold in a human colon cancer cell line, whereas it only caused a 1.1-fold increase in the toxicity of cisplatin in a normal cell line. Next steps could include testing the ATR inhibitor in combination with chemotherapeutics in animal models of cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.394 Published online April 7, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Charrier, J.-D. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 17, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm101488z Contact: John R. Pollard, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Oxfordshire, U.K. e-mail: john_pollard@vrtx.com</p>