

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (DHODH)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that DHODH inhibitors used in combination with BRAF inhibitors could help treat melanoma. In human melanoma cell lines, the DHODH inhibitor Arava leflunomide decreased melanoma cell proliferation compared with vehicle control. In mice with human melanoma cells, Arava plus a BRAF inhibitor suppressed melanoma proliferation better than either compound alone. Next steps include clinical testing of the combination strategy.</p> <p>sanofi-aventis Group markets Arava to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>4SC AG has the DHODH inhibitor vidofludimus in Phase II testing for inflammatory bowel disease and RA and in preclinical testing for lupus.</p> <p>Almirall S.A.'s LAS186323 DHODH inhibitor is in Phase I testing to treat RA.</p> <p>SciBX 4(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.397 Published online April 7, 2011</p>	Patent applications filed for use of combination drugs; available for licensing	<p>White, R.M. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 23, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature09882</p> <p>Contact: Leonard I. Zon, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Mass. e-mail: zon@enders.tch.harvard.edu</p>