

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Smoothened (SMO)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified small molecule SMO antagonists that could help treat cancers resistant to previous SMO antagonists. A cell-based screen of about 50,000 small molecules identified 2 compounds that inhibited both SMO and a known drug-resistant variant of SMO at nanomolar concentrations. Next steps include medicinal chemistry studies to improve the pharmacological properties of the lead molecules and studies in animals with mutant SMO variants.</p> <p>GDC-0449, a small molecule SMO antagonist from Roche's Genentech Inc. unit and Curis Inc., is in Phase I and Phase II testing for cancer.</p> <p>Novartis AG's SMO antagonist LDE225 is in Phase I/II trials for cancer.</p> <p>Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s IPI-926 SMO inhibitor is in Phase I testing to treat advanced solid tumors.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co.'s SMO antagonist LY2940680 is in Phase I trials to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 4(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.508 Published online May 5, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Tao, H. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online April 22, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2011.01.018 Contact: Xu Wu, Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: xwu@cbr2.mgh.harvard.edu</p>