

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a class of Hsp90 inhibitors could help treat melanoma.</p> <p><i>In vitro</i> testing of pyrrolidinopyrimidine analogs identified a lead compound as an Hsp90 inhibitor that blocked proliferation of human melanoma, colorectal cancer and prostate cancer cells. In mice with xenograft melanomas, the lead compound lowered tumor growth compared with vehicle. Future studies could include testing the lead compound in animal models of other cancers.</p> <p>Hypericin (HBP-347), a phototherapeutic that inhibits Hsp90 from Hy BioPharma Inc., is in Phase III testing as a topical agent to treat cutaneous T cell lymphoma (CTCL) and is in Phase I testing as an oral agent to treat glioblastoma.</p> <p>Ganetespib (STA-9090), a small molecule Hsp90 inhibitor from Synta Pharmaceuticals Corp., is in Phase II testing to treat melanoma and other solid tumors as well as hematological malignancies.</p> <p>AUY922, a resorcinol-based Hsp90 inhibitor from Vernalis plc and Novartis AG, is in Phase II testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 4(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.510 Published online May 5, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zehnder, L. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 25, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm200128m</p> <p>Contact: Pei-Pei Kung, Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: peipei.kung@pfizer.com</p>