

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Caspase-3 (CASP3; CPP32)	<p>Studies in mice and in human samples suggest inhibiting CASP3 could improve radiotherapy. In mice bearing human breast adenocarcinoma tumors, CASP3-deficient tumors had lower growth and greater sensitivity to radiotherapy than CASP3-expressing tumors. In mice bearing human melanoma tumors, CASP3-deficient mice were more sensitive to radiotherapy than wild-type mice. In primary breast tumors and head and neck tumors, high levels of activated CASP3 correlated with an increased risk of recurrence or low survival. Ongoing work includes investigating whether chemotherapy and targeted drug therapies lead to CASP3-induced tumor cell growth.</p> <p>Emricasan (IDN-6566), a pan-caspase inhibitor from Conatus Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase IIa testing to treat HCV infection and Phase I testing to treat HBV infection and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).</p> <p>LB84451 (GS 9450), a pan-caspase inhibitor from LG Life Sciences Ltd. and Gilead Sciences Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat HBV.</p> <p>F1013, an irreversible pan-caspase inhibitor from GNI Ltd., is in preclinical development to treat liver failure.</p> <p>SciBX 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.761 Published online July 14, 2011</p>	Patented by the University of Colorado; available for partnering	<p>Huang, Q. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 3, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2385</p> <p>Contact: Chuan-Yuan Li, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, Aurora, Colo. e-mail: chuan.li@ucdenver.edu</p>