

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Histone deacetylase (HDAC); ERG	<i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies identified HDAC inhibitors with better safety and efficacy than previous-generation inhibitors. HDAC inhibitors can have off-target effects on the ERG channel that are associated with QT prolongation and arrhythmias. In an <i>in vitro</i> cardiac safety index test, two hydroxamate-based HDAC inhibitors with weak affinity for human ERG had greater activity against HDAC than the parent HDAC inhibitors. In mouse and rat xenograft models of human colon cancer, the two compounds were more potent inhibitors of tumor growth than the parent compounds. Next steps could include further optimization of the new compounds.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Shultz, M.D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online June 8, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm200388e Contact: Michael D. Shultz, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: michael.shultz@novartis.com
		SciBX 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.762 Published online July 14, 2011		