

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Retinoblastoma	Spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK)	<p>Patient sample and mouse studies suggest inhibiting SYK could help treat retinoblastoma. SYK was expressed at high levels in all 82 samples from patients with retinoblastoma and was not detected in matched normal retinal tissue. In a mouse xenograft model of retinoblastoma, the small molecule SYK inhibitors BAY 61-3606 and R406 both increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps include developing an ophthalmic formulation of R406 and measuring SYK expression in metastatic retinoblastoma. BAY 61-3606 is a research reagent.</p> <p>Tamatinib fosdium (R788), an oral formulation of R406 from Rigel Pharmaceuticals Inc. and AstraZeneca plc, is in Phase III testing to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and in Phase II trials to treat diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL). At least three other companies have SYK inhibitors in clinical or preclinical testing for various indications.</p> <p>SciBX 5(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.122 Published online Feb. 2, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Zhang, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Jan. 11, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature10733</p> <p>Contact: Michael A. Dyer, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: michael.dyer@stjude.org</p>