

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Various</b>				
Cancer; thrombosis	c-Mer proto-oncogene tyrosine kinase (MERTK)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest a new class of MERTK inhibitors could help treat cancer or thrombosis. Chemical synthesis, SAR and <i>in vitro</i> testing of pyridinepyrimidine analogs identified several compounds as selective, low nanomolar inhibitors of MERTK. In different blood and solid cancer cell lines, one lead compound inhibited MERTK phosphorylation and cellular proliferation at low nanomolar IC <sub>50</sub> values. In <i>ex vivo</i> , platelet-rich human plasma, another lead compound decreased platelet aggregation compared with vehicle. Ongoing work includes optimizing the compounds and testing them in animal models of cancer and thrombosis.	Patented by The University of North Carolina; licensed to Meryx Inc.	Zhang, W. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Nov. 6, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm401387j Zhang, W. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Nov. 12, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm4013888 <b>Contact:</b> Xiaodong Wang, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: <a href="mailto:xiaodonw@unc.edu">xiaodonw@unc.edu</a>
		<b>SciBX 6(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1400</b> Published online Dec. 19, 2013		