

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	DNA	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest prodrugs of the duocarmycin family of DNA-alkylating agents could help treat cancer. In a murine leukemia cell line, two of the lead <i>N</i>-acyl <i>O</i>-amino prodrugs of duocarmycin analogs showed cytotoxicity with subnanomolar IC<sub>50</sub> values. In a mouse model for leukemia, one of the lead prodrugs increased survival compared with the nonprodrug compound. Ongoing work includes testing the lead compound in rodent xenograft models for undisclosed cancers.</p> <p>Synthon B.V.'s anti-HER2-ADC, an antibody-drug conjugate consisting of trastuzumab conjugated to duocarmycin analogs using the company's SpaceLink technology, is in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit and Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. market Herceptin trastuzumab, an anti-HER2 (EGFR2; ErbB2; neu) antibody, to treat breast and gastric cancers.</p> <p><b>SciBX 6(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.462</b>  <b>Published online May 16, 2013</b></p>	Patented; unlicensed	<p>Wolfe, A.L. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 29, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400413r</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Dale L. Boger, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif.  e-mail: <a href="mailto:boger@scripps.edu">boger@scripps.edu</a></p>