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THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Androgen receptor mutations that convey resistance to second-generation anti–androgen receptor compounds	Studies in cell culture and in patient samples identified drug resistance mutations that could help guide prostate cancer treatment. In cells, chronic exposure to the anti–androgen receptor compounds Xtandi enzalutamide or ARN-509 resulted in the acquisition of the F876L androgen receptor mutation. In cells with the F976L mutation, the drugs acted as agonists, whereas in wild-type cells the drugs acted as antagonists and inhibited cell proliferation. In circulating tumor DNA obtained from patients' plasma, the mutation was identified after treatment with ARN-509. Next steps include determining the frequency of the mutation in patients receiving second-generation anti–androgen receptor compounds. Xtandi enzalutamide is marketed by Astellas Pharma Inc. and Medivation Inc. for castration-resistant prostate cancer. ARN-509 from Aragon Pharmaceuticals Inc. is in Phase II testing. *SciBX* 6(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.776 Published online Aug. 1, 2013	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	Joseph, J.D. *et al. Cancer Discov.*; published online June 18, 2013; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-13-0226 **Contact:** James D. Joseph, Aragon Pharmaceuticals Inc., San Diego, Calif. e-mail: jjoseph@aragonpharm.com