SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

## This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/ pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cancer** | | | | |
| Breast cancer | Breast cancer 1 early onset (BRCA1) | *In vitro* and mouse studies suggest small molecules that promote DNA repair could help prevent progression of *BRCA1*$^{+}$ cancers. In an *in vitro* chemical screen, acetohexamide and benserazide were identified as compounds that increased DNA repair of a damaged reporter gene in *BRCA1*-mutant cells. In cultured *BRCA1*-mutant cancer cells, benserazide decreased colony formation compared with vehicle without affecting cell viability. In a mouse xenograft model of *BRCA1*-mutant cancer, benserazide delayed tumor formation and decreased metastasis compared with vehicle. Next steps could include identifying the molecular targets of the identified DNA repair–activating agents. Roche markets Madopar, a combination of benserazide and levodopa, to treat Parkinson's disease (PD).<br>Acetohexamide is a generic sulfonylurea used to treat diabetes. The drug has been discontinued in the U.S. | Patent pending; licensing status unavailable | Alli, E. *et al. Cancer Res.*; published online Sept. 12, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-14-1716<br>**Contact:** James M. Ford, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.<br>e-mail: jmf@stanford.edu |

*SciBX* 7(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1171
Published online Oct. 16, 2014


Copyright © 2014 Nature Publishing Group