

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Multiple myeloma (MM)	Growth arrest and DNA-damage-inducible 45 β (GADD45B); mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 7 (MAP2K7; MKK7)	<p>Studies in patient samples and mice suggest inhibiting the GADD45B-MKK7 complex could help treat MM. In cell culture, an optimized D-tripeptide inhibitor of the GADD45-MKK7 complex decreased growth of primary MM cultures with nanomolar IC₅₀ potency and showed a greater therapeutic index than Velcade bortezomib. In a mouse model of MM, the D-tripeptide inhibitor decreased mortality and prolonged survival compared with saline. Next steps include toxicology studies and clinical testing in patients with MM.</p> <p>Kesios Therapeutics Ltd. has the D-tripeptide inhibitor used in the study in preclinical development for MM. Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Johnson & Johnson market Velcade, a small molecule dipeptide boronic acid proteasome inhibitor, to treat MM and mantle cell lymphoma (MCL). The drug is also in Phase II/III testing to treat B cell lymphoma.</p> <p>SciBX 7(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1256 Published online Nov. 6, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Tornatore, L. <i>et al.</i> <i>Cancer Cell</i>; published online Oct. 13, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2014.07.027 Contact: Guido Franzoso, Imperial College London, London, U.K. e-mail: g.franzoso@imperial.ac.uk Contact: Menotti Ruvo, National Research Council and the Interuniversity Center of Research on Bioactive Peptides, Naples, Italy e-mail: menotti.ruvo@unina.it</p>