# Secondary Metabolites from Legumes of Potential Use in Combating Cancer. (C08-kinghorn103605-Oral)

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## Abstract:

Small-molecule plant secondary metabolites are of well-established use as cancer chemotherapeutic agents. Moreover, it seems as if certain dietary components of plant origin may be beneficial for the chemoprevention of cancer. So far as legumes are concerned, the soybean isoflavonoid, genistein, a specific inhibitor of tyrosine protein kinase, is of current interest as both a potential anticancer agent and a cancer chemopreventive. Indirubin is used in Chinese Traditional Medicine for the treatment of chronic myelocytic leukemia, and is a constituent of Indigofera tinctoria (Leguminosae). In this presentation, examples of leads from legumes will be discussed in relation to two ongoing large multidisciplinary projects, directed towards the discovery from higher plants of new anticancer agents and new cancer chemopreventive agents, respectively. (Funding from U19 CA52956 and P01 CA48112 from the National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda, MD is gratefully acknowledged).

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