SUMMARY

In one aspect, there is provided a process for the identification of compounds to be used as therapeutic agents for treating cancer comprising the steps of:

a) Contacting the candidate compound with a cancer cell culture, or cancer cell line derived from cancer cells;
b) Determining the level of activation of a family helicase MDA-5 or the level of NOXA expression, in combination with the determination of the induction of autophagy in cancer cells or in a cell line derived from cancer cells;
c) Comparing the data obtained in step b) with those observed in control of the same cells treated similarly, but in the absence of the candidate compound;
d) Selecting the compounds which have given rise to a significant increase in the parameter or parameters determined in step b) in comparison with the control.

In another aspect, there is provided a compound consisting of a combination of polyinosine-polycytidylic acid (pIC) which is at least 1000 nucleotides per chain in length and polyethyleneimine (PEI) for use as medicament.

In another aspect, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound as defined above for use as medicament.

In yet another aspect, there is provided the use of the compound as defined above, in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition, for the treatment of cancer.