This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	Pathways of cell cycle regulation and B cell development	<p>A genome-wide DNA copy number analysis suggests that targeting pathways specific to early leukemic precursor cells may be useful for preventing relapse in ALL patients. Copy number abnormalities detected in tumor samples obtained from pediatric patients at time of relapse were unique compared with tumor samples obtained from the same pediatric patients at time of ALL diagnosis. Abnormalities unique to relapsed tumor samples preferentially affected genes in pathways of cell cycle regulation and B cell development. Next steps could include developing compounds that target early leukemic precursor cells and evaluating them in preclinical ALL models.</p> <p>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1095 Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Mullighan, C.G. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Nov. 27, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1164266</p> <p>Contact: James R. Downing, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: james.downing@stjude</p>