This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	B cell CLL/ lymphoma 2 (BCL2; BCL-2); BCL2-like 11 (BCL2 _{L11} ; BIM); mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase 1 (MAP3K1; MEK)	<p>A study in mice suggests that Bcl2 homology 3 (BH3) mimetics may boost the efficacy of some cancer therapies. In mice with tumors, the BH3 mimetic ABT-737 plus a MEK inhibitor increased survival compared with that of control mice that received either compound alone or vehicle control. Next steps include clinical trials of BH3 mimetics.</p> <p>Genasense oblimersen, an antisense agent targeting BCL-2 mRNA from Genta Inc., is under regulatory review for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).</p> <p>ABT-263, a BH3 mimetic and BCL-2 protein antagonist from Abbott Laboratories and Genentech Inc., is in Phase I/II testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>The status of Abbott's ABT-737 is undisclosed. At least 15 other companies have MEK or BCL-2 inhibitors in Phase II or earlier to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 1(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.993 Published online Nov. 13, 2008</p>	BIM is patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Cragg, M.S. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Oct. 23, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI35437</p> <p>Contact: Andreas Strasser, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Parkville, Victoria, Australia e-mail: strasser@wehi.edu.au</p> <p>Contact: Mark S. Cragg, Southampton University School of Medicine, Southampton, U.K. e-mail: msc@soton.ac.uk</p>