This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Janus kinase-2 (JAK2; JAK-2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that RNAi knockdown of the V617F mutant of JAK-2 could help treat myeloproliferative disorders. Existing JAK-2 inhibitors target both wild-type JAK-2 and the cancer-causing JAK-2^{V617F} mutant and thus lack specificity for malignant cells. In a cell proliferation assay, small interfering RNA or small hairpin RNA against JAK-2^{V617F} inhibited cell growth. Next steps include testing the siRNAs and shRNAs <i>in vivo</i>.</p> <p>At least seven companies have JAK-2 inhibitors in clinical and preclinical development to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1140 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	siRNA sequence patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Jedidi, A. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online July 9, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-09-176875</p> <p>Contact: Jean-Luc Villeval, Gustave Roussy Institute, Villejuif, France e-mail: villeval@igr.fr</p>