This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Ribonucleotide reductase	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that the generic antifungal ciclopirox olamine could be useful for treating cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, ciclopirox reduced the viability of human leukemia, myeloma and solid tumor cell lines and human primary acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) cells. In mouse models of leukemia, ciclopirox reduced tumor growth and decreased primary AML engraftment in bone marrow compared with no treatment. Additional <i>in vitro</i> studies showed that ciclopirox bound iron and inhibited the enzyme ribonucleotide reductase, which contributed to cell death. Phase I testing of an oral formulation of ciclopirox is expected to begin this year. The researchers are also developing second-generation compounds and formulations.</p> <p>Ciclopirox is a topical agent used to treat fungal infections of the skin, nails and hair.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1141 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Eberhard, Y. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online July 9, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-03-209965</p> <p>Contact: Aaron D. Schimmer, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: aaron.schimmer@utoronto.ca</p>