This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL)	CD79b molecule immunoglobulin-associated- β (CD79B; B29)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that an anti-CD79b/cytotoxin conjugate could be useful for treating NHL. A humanized anti-CD79b antibody was linked to the cytotoxin monomethyl auristatin E to produce a conjugate that released the cytotoxic drug in the presence of proteases. In three mouse models of NHL, the conjugate led to sustained tumor remission compared with vehicle or an anti-CD79b antibody alone.</p> <p>The conjugate, known as anti-CD79b-vc-MMAE, is in preclinical development at Roche's Genentech Inc. unit.</p> <p>CD79BxDR Scorpion, a bispecific single-chain polypeptide that simultaneously binds CD79B and HLA-DR from Trubion Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in preclinical development for B cell lymphoma (BCL).</p> <p>SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1209 Published online Aug. 13, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Dornan, D. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online July 26, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-02-205500</p> <p>Contact: Andrew G. Polson, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: polson@gene.com</p>