This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Anemia	Erythropoietin (EPO)	<i>In vitro</i> studies show that an engineered EPO analog could help treat renal anemia. An EPO analog with two identical sialyloligosaccharides was designed and expressed in <i>Escherichia coli</i> . In leukemic erythrocytes, the analog stimulated cell proliferation. Next steps include scaling up the synthesis of the EPO analog and conducting additional studies to determine the compound's bioactivity. SciBX 2(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1507 Published online Oct. 15, 2009	Patent application filed by Osaka University and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.; available for licensing	Hirano, K. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online Oct. 1, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200904376 Contact: Yasuhiro Kajihara, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan e-mail: kajihara@chem.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp