This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
B cell lymphoma	CD20	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a mutant variant of the anti-CD20 mAb Rituxan rituximab that could be used to treat B cell lymphomas. <i>In vitro</i>, a Rituxan triple mutant caused cellular cytotoxicity and apoptosis in Rituxan-resistant lymphoma cells. In mice with lymphoma, the triple mutant improved survival compared with Rituxan. Next steps include further preclinical testing of the antibody.</p> <p>Biogen Idec Inc. and Roche market Rituxan to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>At least six other companies have compounds targeting CD20 in clinical and preclinical testing to treat B cell lymphoma.</p> <p>SciBX 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1560 Published online Oct. 29, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Li, B. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Oct. 14, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-06-225474</p> <p>Contact: Yajun Guo, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China e-mail: yjguo@smmu.edu.cn</p>