This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	ATG3 autophagy-related 3 homolog (ATG3); viral FLICE-like inhibitory protein (FLIP)	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture suggest that triggering cell death with FLIP-derived peptides could help prevent virus-induced cancers like Kaposi's sarcoma and primary effusion lymphoma. In primary effusion lymphoma cells, FLIP-derived peptides targeting ATG3-FLIP interactions substantially increased cell death compared with control peptide treatment or no treatment. In mice that received primary effusion lymphoma cells, the inhibitory peptides prevented development of disease whereas control peptide did not. Next steps could include optimizing the peptides to improve their pharmacokinetic profiles.</p> <p>SciBX 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1561 Published online Oct. 29, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Lee, J.-S. <i>et al. Nat. Cell Biol.</i>; published online Oct. 18, 2009; doi:10.1038/ncb1980</p> <p>Contact: Jae U. Jung, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: jaeujung@usc.edu</p>