This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Janus kinase-2 (JAK-2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies identified a polycyclic azaindole-based JAK-2 inhibitor that could help treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, the compound inhibited the JAK-2 signal transducer and activator of transcription (STAT) pathway with specificity for JAK-2 over other kinases. In rats, the compound had good clearance, half-life and bioavailability. In mice with leukemia, the JAK-2 inhibitor prolonged survival. Next steps could include testing the compound in additional animal models of cancer. At least five companies have JAK-2 inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1756 Published online Dec. 17, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Wang, T. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Nov. 18, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm901383u</p> <p>Contact: Mark W. Ledebor, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: mark_ledebor@vrtx.com</p>