This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML)	Smoothened (SMO)	<p>Studies in mice and in human cell culture suggest that SMO antagonists could be used to treat CML. In a mouse model of CML, bone marrow-specific deletion of <i>Smo</i> led to higher survival than that seen in wild-type controls. Transgenic mice with constitutively activated <i>Smo</i> had lower survival than wild-type controls. Cyclopamine, a small molecule SMO antagonist, decreased human CML cell growth <i>in vitro</i> and increased mouse survival compared with what was seen in mock-treated controls. GDC-0449, a SMO antagonist from Curis Inc. and Genentech Inc., is expected to soon start Phase II trials for advanced basal cell carcinoma (BCC). MS-833923 (XL139), a SMO antagonist from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Exelixis Inc., is in Phase I trials to treat advanced solid tumors. Fate Therapeutics Inc. and Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc. each have compounds targeting the Shh pathway in preclinical development for cancer. <i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.180 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from Stanford University Contact: Caroline Massee, Office of Technology Licensing, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: caroline.massee@stanford.edu</p>	<p>Zhao, C. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Jan. 18, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07737 Contact: Tannishtha Reya, Duke University, Durham, N.C. e-mail: t.reya@duke.edu</p>