This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Multiple myeloma (MM)	CD1d	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that increasing CD1d expression on myeloma cells could potentially help treat MM. CD1d was highly expressed on premalignant and early-stage MM cells but was lost in the late stages of the disease. <i>In vitro</i>, antibody-induced upregulation of CD1d on myeloma cells led to caspase-independent apoptosis. The antibody plus bortezomib or dexamethasone increased apoptosis in multiple myeloma cell lines, including cell lines resistant to dexamethasone. Next steps could include studying CD1d induction in a mouse model of MM. Velcade bortezomib, a small molecule dipeptide boronic acid proteasome inhibitor from Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.'s Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc. subsidiary and Johnson & Johnson, is marketed to treat MM. Dexamethasone is a generic steroid.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.51 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Spanoudakis, E. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Dec. 3, 2008; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-06-161281</p> <p>Contact: Anastasios Karadimitris, Imperial College London, London, U.K. e-mail: a.karadimitris@imperial.ac.uk</p>