This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL); acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)	SET domain and mariner transposase fusion gene (SETMAR; METNASE); Topoisomerase II α (TOP2A)	<p>Studies in human cell culture suggest that inhibiting METNASE could help increase the efficacy of TOP2A inhibitors to treat ALL and AML. The combination of TOP2A and METNASE inhibition prevented AML cell line proliferation compared with TOP2A inhibition alone. Ongoing studies include elucidating METNASE's mechanism of action and the identifying small molecule METNASE inhibitors.</p> <p>Antisoma plc's topoisomerase II (TOP2) inhibitor amonafide (AS1413) is in Phase III testing to treat secondary AML. Sunesis Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s voreloxin (SNS-595), a naphthyridine analog that inhibits TOP2, is in Phase II testing to treat newly diagnosed AML in the elderly and in Phase Ib/II testing to treat refractory AML.</p> <p>SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.899 Published online June 4, 2009</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Wray, J. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online May 20, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-08-175760</p> <p>Contact: Robert Hromas, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, N.M. e-mail: rhromas@salud.unm.edu</p>