This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	5-Lipoxygenase (ALOX5)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting ALOX5 could help treat cancer and prevent relapse. In a mouse model of BCR-ABL-induced chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), transplantation of bone marrow cells from ALOX5^{-/-} mice led to higher survival rates than transplantation of wild-type cells. In mice with CML, the ALOX5 inhibitor Zyflo CR zileuton increased survival times compared with placebo or Gleevec imatinib. Next steps include testing Zyflo CR in cancer patients.</p> <p>Zyflo CR, a controlled-release formulation of an ALOX5 inhibitor from Cornerstone Therapeutics Inc., is marketed for asthma.</p> <p>The BCR-ABL inhibitor Gleevec is marketed by Novartis AG to treat gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST), CML, acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), myeloproliferative diseases and certain other cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.969 Published online June 18, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status unknown	<p>Chen, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online June 7, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.389</p> <p>Contact: Shaoguang Li, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: shaoguang.li@umassmed.edu</p>