This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL)	CD20; CD47	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that a combination of anti-CD20 and anti-CD47 antibodies could help treat NHL. In human NHL samples, CD47 expression was higher than that in healthy B cells, and that high expression correlated with poor prognosis. In cultured NHL cells, the anti-CD20 antibody rituximab and an anti-CD47 antibody increased phagocytosis of cancer cells compared with IgG control or either antibody alone. In mice with NHL xenografts, the combination therapy completely eliminated the cancers compared with IgG control or either antibody alone. Next steps include ongoing efforts to make a humanized version of the anti-CD47 antibody as well as to determine its toxicity, efficacy and pharmacokinetics.</p> <p>Biogen Idec Inc. and the Genentech Inc. unit of Roche market Rituxan rituximab to treat various cancers including NHL.</p> <p>SciBX 3(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1065 Published online Sept. 9, 2010</p>	Patent applications filed for use of anti-CD47 antibodies to treat human cancers and for use in combination with other antibodies; unavailable for licensing	<p>Chao, M.P. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Sept. 2, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.07.044</p> <p>Contact: Mark P. Chao, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: mpchao@stanford.edu</p>