This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	EPH receptor B4 (EPHB4)	Studies in cell culture and in human bone marrow suggest that enhancing expression of the tumor suppressor gene <i>EPHB4</i> could help treat ALL. In samples from ALL patients, microarray analysis showed that at least 1 of 15 ephrin and EPH receptor genes were silenced in leukemia cell lines and the bone marrow. In human ALL cell lines, an <i>EPHB4</i> -expressing lentiviral vector decreased cell growth and increased apoptosis compared with an empty control vector. Next steps could include testing the <i>EPHB4</i> -expressing vector in animal models of ALL.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Kuang, S.-Q. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online Jan. 8, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-05-222208 Contact: Guillermo Garcia-Manero, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: ggarciam@mdanderson.org
<i>SciBX</i> 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.109 Published online Jan. 28, 2010				