This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Leukemia	BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that allosteric inhibitors of BCR-ABL used in combination with active-site inhibitors could help overcome drug resistance to treat leukemia. The leukemia-associated fusion protein BCR-ABL contains an allosteric myristate-binding site and an ATP-binding active site. In biochemical and cellular assays, an allosteric inhibitor in combination with active-site inhibitors nilotinib or dasatinib suppressed mutant BCR-ABL, whereas nilotinib or dasatinib alone did not. In mouse models of leukemia, the combination therapy had greater efficacy than either type of inhibitor alone. Next steps could include determining the safety and toxicity profile of the myristate inhibitors. At least eight companies have BCR-ABL inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.113 Published online Jan. 28, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Zhang, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Jan. 13, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature08675 Contact: Nathanael S. Gray, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: nathanael_gray@dfci.harvard.edu Contact: Markus Warmuth, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: markus.warmuth@novartis.com Contact: Francisco J. Adrián, Novartis Research Foundation, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: fadrian@gnf.org</p>