This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Leukemia; acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that the selective mTOR inhibitor PP242 could help treat leukemia. In three mouse models of ALL, PP242 inhibited cell growth and proliferation and reduced leukemia burden better than Rapamune. In mouse xenografts with leukemia samples from relapsed patients, PP242 plus Sprycel dasatinib reduced cell proliferation and leukemia burden better than Sprycel alone. Ongoing work includes testing PP242 and related compounds in other types of leukemia.</p> <p>Intellikine Inc.'s INK128, a next-generation version of PP242, is in Phase I testing to treat advanced solid tumors.</p> <p>Rapamune rapamycin, an mTOR inhibitor from Pfizer Inc., is marketed to prevent organ rejection in renal transplantation.</p> <p>Sprycel, a small molecule inhibitor of BCR-ABL and Src kinases from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is marketed to treat leukemia.</p> <p>SciBX 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.114 Published online Jan. 28, 2010</p>	Patented by The Regents of the University of California; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Janes, M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 13, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2091</p> <p>Contact: David Fruman, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: dfruman@uci.edu</p>