This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	IL-13; IL-13 receptor $\alpha 2$ (IL-13RA2; IL-13R; CD213A2)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that IL-13-based gene therapy could help treat brain cancer. The gene therapy consisted of an adenoviral vector expressing <i>Pseudomonas</i> exotoxin linked to a mutant variant of IL-13 that was specific for IL-13R, which is commonly expressed in glioblastoma multiforme. In a mouse model of glioblastoma, the gene therapy prolonged survival and decreased tumor growth with no side effects compared with a control vector. Next steps could include optimizing dosing in additional preclinical models of glioblastoma multiforme.</p> <p>NeoPharm Inc.'s Cintredekin besudotox, an injectable fusion protein consisting of <i>Pseudomonas</i> exotoxin linked to wild-type IL-13, missed the primary endpoint in a Phase III trial to treat glioblastoma multiforme in 2006.</p> <p>SciBX 3(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1317 Published online Nov. 11, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Candolfi, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 25, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1008261107</p> <p>Contact: Pedro R. Lowenstein, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: lowenstein@cshs.org</p> <p>Contact: Maria G. Castro, same affiliation as above e-mail: castromg@cshs.org</p>