This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL); acute myelogenous leukemia (AML); leukemia; lymphoma	Neuropilin 1 (NRP1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that NRP1-binding therapeutics could help treat leukemia and lymphoma. Primary human ALL and AML cells expressed higher levels of NRP1 than normal bone marrow cells. Combinatorial screening in human leukemia and lymphoma cell lines identified a nine mer peptide that was internalized by cells after binding to NRP1. In the cell lines, delivery of the peptide conjugated to a proapoptotic peptidomimetic decreased cell viability at low micromolar concentrations compared with delivery of an unconjugated mixture of the peptide and peptidomimetic. Ongoing work includes combinatorial screening to identify additional peptides and small molecules.</p> <p>MNRP1685 (Anti-NRP1; R7347; RG7347), a recombinant mAb that binds NRP1 from Roche's Genentech Inc. unit, is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 3(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1376 Published online Dec. 2, 2010</p>	Patented by The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; licensed to Mercator Therapeutics Inc.	<p>Karjalainen, K. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Nov. 9, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2010-05-282921 Contact: Renata Pasqualini, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: rpasqual@mdanderson.org Contact: Wadih Arap, same affiliation as above e-mail: warap@mdanderson.org</p>