This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
B cell lymphoma; multiple myeloma (MM)	Adenosine A _{2A} receptor (ADORA _{2A}); phosphodiesterase-2 (PDE-2); PDE-3; PDE-4; PDE-7	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that ADORA _{2A} agonists and PDE inhibitors could be useful adjuncts to glucocorticoid therapy for B cell malignancies. In MM cell lines, diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL) cell lines and clinical MM tumor samples, a combination of ADORA _{2A} agonists and PDE inhibitors boosted the ability of dexamethasone to induce apoptosis and inhibit cell proliferation. CombinatoRx Inc. said its next steps include developing a new ADORA _{2A} agonist for use in combination therapies. Clinical Data Inc.'s ALT313, an ADORA _{2A} agonist, is in preclinical testing to treat cancer. Dexamethasone is a generic glucocorticoid. SciBX 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.517 Published online April 29, 2010	Patent applications filed for ADORA _{2A} agonists, PDE inhibitors and glucocorticoid combinations to treat multiple B cell malignancies, including MM; available for licensing	Rickles, R. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online April 9, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-11-252668 Contact: Richard J. Rickles, CombinatoRx Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: rrickles@combinatorx.com