This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)	Spleen focus forming virus proviral integration oncogene <i>spi1</i> (SPI1; PU.1)	A study in mice suggests that antagonizing SPI1 could help treat AML. Mice transplanted with AML-inducing cells developed disease in 8–14 weeks, whereas animals that received SPI1-deficient AML cells were disease-free over the 6-month study. Also in AML mice, chemically induced deletion of SPI1 blocked disease development, whereas uninduced controls died within 6 weeks. Next steps could include evaluating SPI1 antagonists in additional AML models. SciBX 3(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.548 Published online May 6, 2010	Patent cooperation treaty patent application filed; available for licensing from the National Cancer Center Research Institute's Center for Cancer Control and Information Services	Aikawa, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online April 25, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2122 Contact: Issay Kitabayashi, National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: ikitabay@ncc.go.jp