This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML)	BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase; histone deacetylase (HDAC)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that combination therapy using a BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitor and an HDAC inhibitor could help prevent CML relapse. In chronic phase leukemia progenitor cells, BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitor Gleevec imatinib plus the pan-HDAC inhibitor LBH589 increased apoptosis and reduced proliferation and colony growth more than either therapeutic alone. In a transgenic mouse model of CML, the combination therapy increased apoptosis of leukemia stem cells and increased survival compared with either treatment alone or vehicle control. A Phase I trial of the combination therapy has begun.</p> <p>Novartis AG markets Gleevec to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST).</p> <p>Novartis also has LBH580 panobinostat in clinical testing for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.618 Published online May 20, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Zhang, B. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online May 13, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2010.03.011</p> <p>Contact: Ravi Bhatia, City of Hope, Duarte, Calif. e-mail: rbhatia@coh.org</p>