This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Gastrointestinal cancer	Not applicable	<p>A study in patient tissue and in mice suggests that combining Gleevec imatinib with an autophagy inhibitor may help treat gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) better than Gleevec alone. Tumor tissue from Gleevec-responsive GIST patients showed greater levels of autophagy, a process that can promote tumor survival, and lower levels of apoptosis than tissue from untreated patients. In a GIST xenograft mouse model, Gleevec plus autophagy inhibitors chloroquine or quinacrine increased apoptosis and decreased tumor growth compared with Gleevec alone. Next steps include further preclinical evaluation of the combination in mouse models of GIST. Novartis AG markets Gleevec to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and GIST.</p> <p>SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.918 Published online Aug. 5, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Gupta, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 26, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1000248107</p> <p>Contact: Brian P. Rubin, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: rubinb2@ccf.org</p> <p>Contact: Jayanta Debnath, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: jayanta.debnath@ucsf.edu</p>