This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myeloid leukemia (AML); chronic myeloid leukemia (CML)	Musashi homolog 2 (MSI2)	A study in mice and in humans suggests that antagonizing MSI2 could help treat AML and late-stage CML. In murine hematopoietic stem cells, overexpression of MSI2 led to abnormal cell proliferation and leukemia-like properties compared with those in vector-transfected controls. In AML and late-stage (blast crisis) CML patients, high <i>MSI2</i> expression was associated with a worse prognosis than low MSI2 levels. Next steps include identifying potential targets of MSI2, an mRNA-binding protein, and further characterizing how MSI2 affects cancer signaling pathways.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Kharas, M.G. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online July 8, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2187 Contact: George Q. Daley, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: george.daley@childrens.harvard.edu Contact: Michael G. Kharas, same affiliation as above e-mail: mkhargas@partners.org
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