This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)	AML1-ETO oncogenic fusion protein; stem cell factor receptor tyrosine kinase (c-Kit; KIT; CD117)	<p>A study in mice suggests that combining Sprycel dasatinib and cytarabine could help treat AML. In mice with AML induced by AML1-ETO and activating c-Kit mutations, Sprycel in combination with cytarabine increased overall survival compared with either drug alone. Next steps include further animal studies to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the combination therapy.</p> <p>Sprycel, a small molecule kinase inhibitor, is marketed by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML).</p> <p>Cytarabine is a generic chemotherapeutic used to treat hematological cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.188 Published online Feb. 17, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Wang, Y.-Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 24, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1019625108</p> <p>Contact: Sai-Juan Chen, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China e-mail: sjchen@stn.sh.cn</p> <p>Contact: Zhu Chen, same affiliation as above e-mail: zchen@stn.sh.cn</p> <p>Contact: Ruibao Ren, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass. e-mail: ren@brandeis.edu</p>