This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	CD20	<p>A study in mice suggests that targeting a subpopulation of cells expressing CD20 could help treat melanoma. In mice with melanoma from patient-derived biopsies, CD20-specific T cells decreased tumor volume and led to tumor eradication with no relapse compared with control T cells or no treatment. Next steps include testing the potential of T cells to treat additional cancers by targeting a small subpopulation of cells that drive tumor progression.</p> <p>Rituxan rituximab, a mAb against CD20 from Biogen Idec Inc. and the Genentech Inc. subsidiary of Roche, is marketed for a variety of autoimmune diseases and hematological cancers. Arzerra ofatumumab, a mAb against CD20 from Genmab A/S and GlaxoSmithKline plc, is marketed for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).</p> <p>SciBX 4(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.222 Published online Feb. 24, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Schmidt, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 31, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1009069108</p> <p>Contact: Hinrich Abken, University of Cologne, Köln, Germany e-mail: hinrich.abken@uk-koeln.de</p>