This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	Discoidin domain receptor tyrosine kinase 2 (DDR2)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest that Sprycel dasatinib and DDR2-selective inhibitors could help treat a subset of NSCLC patients. In human squamous cell NSCLC lines with DDR2 mutations, the multitarget tyrosine kinase inhibitor dasatinib or small hairpin RNA-mediated knockdown of DDR2 each lowered proliferation compared with no treatment or control shRNA treatment, respectively. In mice with human squamous NSCLC cells that had <i>DDR2</i> mutations, dasatinib decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle. Next steps include starting a Phase II trial this year of dasatinib in this patient population and developing selective inhibitors of DDR2.</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. market Sprycel for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML).</p> <p>SciBX 4(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.540 Published online May 12, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Hammerman, P.S. <i>et al.</i> <i>Cancer Discovery</i>; published online April 3, 2011; doi:10.1158/2159-8274.CD-11-0005 Contact: Matthew Meyerson, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: Matthew_meyerson@dfci.harvard.edu Contact: Roman K. Thomas, Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology, Cologne, Germany e-mail: nini@nf.mpg.de Contact: Eric B. Haura, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, Fla. e-mail: Eric.Haura@moffitt.org</p>