This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)	Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 13 (TNFSF13; APRIL)	<p>A study in patient tissue and in mice identified mAb antagonists of APRIL that could help treat CLL. In patient-derived CLL cells, an anti-APRIL mAb reversed the prosurvival effects of APRIL compared with a control antibody. In CLL mice that expressed April, an anti-April mAb decreased excessive B cell expansion compared with a control antibody. Next steps include humanizing and conducting preclinical development of the mAbs, identifying biomarkers of APRIL blockade and investigating APRIL signaling in additional tumor types to determine the best patient population for testing the therapy.</p> <p>SciBX 4(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.623 Published online June 2, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Guadagnoli, M. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online May 4, 2011; doi:10.1182/blood-2011-01-330852 Contact: Jan Paul Medema, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: j.p.medema@amc.uva.nl</p>