This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Erythropoietin receptor; signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)	<p>A study in mice suggests low doses of the erythropoietin (EPO) receptor agonist CERA may help prevent heart failure in cancer patients receiving doxorubicin or STAT3 inhibitors. In mice treated with doxorubicin or deficient in STAT3, low doses of CERA prevented or decreased heart failure compared with saline controls. Next steps include testing CERA in combination with doxorubicin or STAT3 inhibitors in mouse models of cancer. Roche and Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. market the EPO derivative Continuous Erythropoiesis Receptor Activator (CERA; R744) for anemia. GLG Pharma LLC has four STAT3 inhibitors in preclinical development for cancer. Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc. is developing ISIS-STAT3Rx, an antisense inhibitor of STAT3, which is in preclinical development for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.929 Published online Aug. 25, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Hoch, M. <i>et al. Cell Stem Cell</i>; published online Aug. 5, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.stem.2011.07.001 Contact: Denise Hilfiker-Kleiner, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany e-mail: hilfiker.denise@mh-hannover.de</p>