This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)	FMS-like tyrosine kinase 3 (FLT3; CD135); aurora kinases	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified inhibitors of aurora kinases and FLT3 that could help treat AML. In enzymatic assays, an optimized imidazole[4,5-<i>b</i>]pyridine-based compound inhibited activity of aurora kinases and FLT3 with nanomolar K_d values. In mice with mutant <i>FLT3</i>-expressing human AML xenografts, oral treatment with the inhibitor blocked tumor growth and caused tumor regression, whereas vehicle treatment did not. Ongoing work includes additional preclinical formulation and toxicology studies.</p> <p>At least nine companies have FLT3 inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1132 Published online Nov. 1, 2012</p>	Covered by issued and filed patent applications; unavailable for licensing	<p>Bavetsias, V. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Oct. 8, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm300952s</p> <p>Contact: Julian Blagg, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, U.K. e-mail: julian.blagg@icr.ac.uk</p>