This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Hematologic malignancies	Myeloid leukemia cell differentiation protein (MCL1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies suggest marinopyrrole A could help treat hematological malignancies. <i>In vitro</i>, marinopyrrole A (maritoclax) decreased MCL1 activity compared with vehicle control but did not affect the activity of the related protein B cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2). In cultured MCL1-driven human myeloid leukemia cells, maratoclax induced degradation of MCL1 and promoted apoptosis, whereas vehicle did not. In BCL2 inhibitor-resistant leukemia cells, maratoclax restored sensitivity to BCL2 inhibition. Next steps include further optimization and preclinical testing of maratoclax as an adjunct to BCL2 inhibitors in hematological malignancies. At least nine BCL2-family inhibitors are in development stages ranging from preclinical to Phase II trials to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.304 Published online March 22, 2012</p>	Patent pending; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Doi, K. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 6, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.334532</p> <p>Contact: Hong-Gang Wang, Pennsylvania State University Hershey College of Medicine, Hershey, Pa. e-mail: huw11@psu.edu</p>