This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	Tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL)	<p>Mouse studies suggest TRAIL could eliminate cancer stem cells to help treat ALL. In mice, transplantation of human ALL cells that had been cultured with TRAIL delayed leukemia engraftment and death, and led to fewer leukemia stem cells and lower leukemia burden than transplantation of cells cultured with vehicle control. In mice with human ALL xenografts, TRAIL extended survival and prevented leukemia in three of five mice. Next steps include testing TRAIL in patients with ALL.</p> <p>RG7425, an anti-TRAIL mAb from Roche, is in Phase II testing to treat various solid and blood cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.327 Published online March 29, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unknown	<p>Castro Alves, C. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online March 9, 2012; doi:10.1182/blood-2011-08-370114</p> <p>Contact: Irmela Jeremias, German Research Center for Environmental Health, Munich, Germany e-mail: irmela.jeremias@helmholtz-muenchen.de</p>