This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Gastrointestinal cancer	Stem cell factor receptor tyrosine kinase (c-Kit; KIT; CD117)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest an anti-KIT mAb could help treat gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs). In Gleevec imatinib-resistant GIST cell lines, a mAb targeting KIT increased macrophage-mediated cancer cell phagocytosis and slowed growth compared with IgG. In mice bearing GIST xenografts, the anti-KIT mAb decreased tumor growth compared with IgG control. Next steps could include testing the antibodies in additional animal models.</p> <p>Novartis AG's BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitor Gleevec is marketed to treat multiple cancers including GIST.</p> <p>At least five companies have KIT inhibitors in preclinical and clinical testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 6(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.159 Published online Feb. 21, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Edris, B. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 4, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1222893110</p> <p>Contact: Matt van de Rijn, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: mrjrn@stanford.edu</p> <p>Contact: Irving L. Weissman, same affiliation as above e-mail: irv@stanford.edu</p>