This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	5'-Nucleotidase cytosolic II (NT5C2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest inhibiting NT5C2 could help treat chemotherapy-resistant ALL. In the first study, whole-exome sequencing of 103 relapsed T cell and 35 B cell ALL samples identified 21 with mutations in <i>NT5C2</i> that increased nucleotidase activity and were absent at diagnosis. In the second study, gain-of-function mutations in <i>NT5C2</i> were identified in 2 of 10 pediatric patients with B cell ALL at relapse that were absent at diagnosis and in 5 of 61 additional relapsed samples in a follow-up study. Next steps include developing diagnostic assays to identify the mutations and developing NT5C2 inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 6(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.185 Published online Feb. 28, 2013</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering findings in first study; available for licensing for diagnostic and therapeutic applications</p> <p>Patent and licensing status unavailable for findings in second study</p>	<p>Tzoneva, G. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 3, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3078 Contact: Adolfo Ferrando, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: af2196@columbia.edu</p> <p>Meyer, J.A. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Feb. 3, 2013; doi:10.1038/ng.2558 Contact: William L. Carroll, NYU Cancer Institute, New York, N.Y. e-mail: william.carroll@nyumc.org</p>