This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)	Yippee-like 5 (YPEL5); protein phosphatase 1 catalytic subunit β -isozyme (PPP1CB)	<p>Patient sample and cell culture studies have identified a <i>YPEL5-PPP1CB</i> fusion transcript that could be a marker or therapeutic target in the disease. The <i>YPEL5-PPP1CB</i> fusion transcript was detected in 97 of 103 samples from patients with CLL but not in any healthy controls. <i>In vitro</i>, the fusion transcript produced a truncated PPP1CB protein with less phosphatase activity than the wild-type protein. In cultured CLL cells, small hairpin RNA against <i>PPP1CB</i> increased cell proliferation compared with control shRNA. Next steps include determining when and how this fusion transcript is produced in patients with CLL.</p> <p>SciBX 6(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.191 Published online Feb. 28, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Velusamy, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 4, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1214326110 Contact: Kojo S.J. Elenitoba-Johnson, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: kojoelen@med.umich.edu Contact: Arul M. Chinnaiyan, same affiliation as above e-mail: arul@umich.edu</p>