This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Leukemia; solid tumors	Human leukocyte antigen (HLA); Wilms tumor 1 (WT1)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest a human mAb targeting the WT1-HLA complex could help treat leukemia and solid tumors. In panels of cells from healthy donors and patients, the human mAb, called ESK1, bound to the majority of leukemic and solid tumor cell lines that were positive for WT1 and the WT1-HLA complex. In a mouse xenograft model for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), ESK1 decreased tumor burden and increased survival compared with a control IgG. Next steps include evaluating ESK1 in additional animal safety studies and scaling up manufacturing of the antibody.</p> <p>Eureka Therapeutics Inc. has ESK1 in preclinical development to treat leukemia.</p> <p>GlaxoSmithKline plc's GSK2130579, an antigen-specific cancer immunotherapeutic utilizing recombinant WT1, is in Phase II testing to treat acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) and Phase I testing to treat breast cancer.</p> <p>Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc. has a WT1 DNA vaccine in Phase II testing to treat leukemia.</p> <p>SciBX 6(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.286 Published online March 28, 2013</p>	<p>Patent applications filed; available for licensing from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Eureka Therapeutics</p> <p>Contact: Sharon Seiler, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: seilers@mskcc.org</p> <p>Contact: Elisa Pan, Eureka Therapeutics Inc., Emeryville, Calif. e-mail: elisa_pan@eurekainc.com</p>	<p>Dao, T. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 13, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005661</p> <p>Contact: David A. Scheinberg, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: d-scheinberg@ski.mskcc.org</p> <p>Contact: Cheng Liu, Eureka Therapeutics Inc., Emeryville, Calif. e-mail: cheng_liu@eurekainc.com</p>