This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	CD19	<p>An investigator-led clinical study suggests T cells modified to express a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) targeting CD19 could help treat patients with relapsed B cell ALL (B-ALL). Prior clinical studies with CD19-targeting CAR T cells have been in less aggressive B cell tumors. In a Phase I trial, five patients with relapsed B-ALL treated with T cells expressing the CD19-specific CAR, termed 19-28z, all went into complete remission. Next steps include expanding the cohort of patients with B-ALL treated with this protocol and conducting preclinical studies to test the potential of the approach for targeting solid tumors. Novartis AG and the University of Pennsylvania have CTL019, autologous T cells expressing a CAR targeting CD19, in Phase I/II testing in ALL.</p> <p>SciBX 6(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.358 Published online April 18, 2013</p>	Patented; undisclosed partner has an exclusive option to the technology	<p>Brentjens, R.J. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 20, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005930 Contact: Renier J. Brentjens, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: brentjer@mskcc.org Contact: Michel Sadelain, same affiliation as above e-mail: m-sadelain@ski.mskcc.org</p>