This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	c-Mer proto-oncogene tyrosine kinase (MERTK)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting MERTK could help treat ALL. In pediatric B cell ALL (B-ALL) cells, small hairpin RNA against MERTK sensitized the cells to chemotherapeutics and increased apoptosis compared with control shRNA. In a mouse xenograft model of human ALL, expression of MERTK-targeted shRNA increased survival compared with expression of control shRNA. Ongoing studies include developing MERTK inhibitors for clinical testing.	Patented by The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Meryx Inc. is licensing the IP; available for partnerships	Linger, R.M.A. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online July 16, 2013; doi:10.1182/blood-2013-01-478156 Contact: Douglas K. Graham, University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colo. e-mail: doug.graham@ucdenver.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 6(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.851 Published online Aug. 22, 2013				