This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)	Not applicable	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest the rheumatoid arthritis (RA) drug Ridaura auranofin could be used to treat CLL. In cell culture, Ridaura induced apoptosis in a series of human CLL cells with different genomic alterations but did not induce apoptosis in normal CD34⁺ hematopoietic stem cells. In a transgenic mouse model of CLL, Ridaura administration over 2 weeks decreased CLL cell counts by >90% and increased survival compared with no treatment. Next steps include testing Ridaura in combination with other drugs for inhibition of CLL and mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) in mouse models and human samples. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Kansas Bioscience Authority and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases program have Ridaura in Phase I/II trials to treat CLL. Nestle S.A.'s Prometheus Laboratories Inc. unit markets Ridaura to treat RA. SciBX 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.395 Published online April 10, 2014	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Fiskus, W. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online March 5, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-2033 Contact: Kapil N. Bhalla, Houston Methodist Research Institute, Houston, Texas e-mail: knbhalla@tmhs.org