This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Leukemia	Spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK)	<p>Studies in human samples and mice suggest inhibiting SYK could help treat high-risk B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL). In the human B-ALL samples, the SYK inhibitor fostamatinib decreased proliferation compared with vehicle. In a mouse xenograft model of high-risk human B-ALL, fostamatinib decreased leukemic burden at the injection site and disease dissemination from bone to spleen, liver, kidney and CNS compared with vehicle. Next steps include evaluating SYK inhibitors in combination with first-line chemotherapies to treat B-ALL in xenograft models.</p> <p>Rigel Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s fostamatinib disodium is in Phase II testing to treat idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura.</p> <p>At least eight other companies have SYK inhibitors in Phase II or earlier testing to treat various indications, including hematologic malignancies.</p> <p>SciBX 7(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.704 Published online June 19, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Perova, T. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online May 14, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3008661</p> <p>Contact: Jayne S. Danska, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: jayne.danska@sickkids.ca</p>