This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL)	CXXC finger 5 (CXXC5)	<p>Studies in human myeloid cell cultures suggest that CXXC5 activation may help treat APL and other hematopoietic malignancies. Expression analysis of human APL cells treated with all-<i>trans</i> retinoic acid showed upregulation of nine proteins, including the transcription factor CXXC5, compared with what was seen in controls. Small hairpin RNA inhibition of CXXC5 in APL cells increased proliferation compared with that seen in untreated cells. Next steps could include determining the role of CXXC5 in other hematological disorders and in solid tumors.</p> <p>At least five companies market drugs to treat APL.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.217 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Pendino, F. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Jan. 30, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-07-170035</p> <p>Contact: Frederic Pendino, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: frederic.pendino@inserm.fr</p>