This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL); chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)	Myeloid leukemia cell differentiation protein (MCL1; Mcl-1)	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that the natural product silvestrol could be useful for treating ALL and CLL. In primary ALL and CLL cells, silvestrol was cytotoxic. In CLL cells, silvestrol decreased levels of Mcl-1, an inhibitor of apoptosis, compared with those seen in untreated cells. In a mouse model of aggressive ALL, silvestrol increased survival and decreased disease symptoms compared with what was seen in untreated controls. Ongoing efforts include elucidating silvestrol's mechanism and conducting pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies to optimize <i>in vivo</i> dosing regimens. Seven companies have therapies marketed or approved to treat ALL, whereas 12 companies have therapies marketed or approved to treat CLL.	Unpatented	Lucas, D. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online Feb. 3, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-09-175430 Contact: David M. Lucas, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio e-mail: david.lucas@osumc.edu
SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.261 Published online Feb. 19, 2009				