

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Interferon- α (IFN- α)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that IFN-α treatment may help prevent cancer relapse. In wild-type mice, IFN-α drove dormant hematopoietic stem cells out of their quiescent state and made them vulnerable to antiproliferative treatments. Next steps include showing that IFN-α sensitizes chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) stem cells to imatinib.</p> <p>At least five companies market IFN-α therapeutics to treat various cancers.</p> <p>Gleevec imatinib, a Bcr-Abl tyrosine kinase inhibitor from Novartis AG, is marketed to treat hematological malignancies including CML.</p> <p>SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.310 Published online Feb. 26, 2009</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering priming and activating cancer stem cells with IFN-α prior to treatment; available for licensing from the Heidelberg Institute for Stem Cell Technologies and Experimental Medicine (HI-STEM)</p>	<p>Essers, M.A.G. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Feb. 11, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07815</p> <p>Contact: Andreas Trumpp, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: a.trumpp@dkfz-heidelberg.de</p>