This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL); hematologic malignancies	Protein kinase B (PKB; AKT1; AKT)	<p>A study in cell culture shows that inhibiting AKT1 could be useful for treating ALL and other hematologic malignancies. In cell proliferation assays, 31 of 35 ALL cell lines, 8 of 11 of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) cell lines and 10 of 15 Burkitt's lymphoma cell lines were sensitive to treatment with GlaxoSmithKline plc's GSK690693 at $EC_{50} < 1 \mu M$. Normal human $CD4^+$ peripheral T cells and mouse thymocytes were insensitive to the ATP-competitive pan-AKT kinase inhibitor ($EC_{50} > 10$ and $30 \mu M$, respectively).</p> <p>GSK690693 is in Phase I testing to treat hematologic malignancies.</p> <p>At least six companies have Akt inhibitors in Phase II or earlier to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.42 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Levy, D.S. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Dec. 8, 2008; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-02-137737</p> <p>Contact: Rakesh Kumar, GlaxoSmithKline plc, Collegeville, Pa. e-mail: rakesh.2.kumar@gsk.com</p>