This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Leukemia	Neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 1 (NTRK1; TrkA); NTRK2 (TrkB); NTRK3 (TrkC); brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF); nerve growth factor (NGF)	<p>Analysis of patient samples and a mouse study suggest that inhibiting NTRKs may be useful for treating leukemia. In patients, the presence of NTRK2 and its endogenous ligand, BDNF, correlated with significantly lower survival than that seen in patients expressing NTRK2 alone ($p < 0.05$). All mice transplanted with NTRK2- and BDNF-expressing cells, or cells expressing NTRK1 and its ligand, NGF, developed fatal leukemia. Next steps could include evaluating inhibitors of NTRK or of its downstream signaling partners in preclinical leukemia models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.49 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Li, Z. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Dec. 4, 2008; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-05-155200 Contact: Zhixiong Li, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany e-mail: li.zhixiong@mh-hannover.de</p>