This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)	Phosphodiesterase-7B (PDE7B)	A study using patient samples suggests that inhibiting PDE7 expression may be useful for treating CLL. In peripheral blood mononuclear cells, CLL cells had about 20-fold higher expression of isoform PDE7B mRNA compared with that seen in normal B cells. In CLL cells, PDE7 inhibitors significantly increased drug-induced apoptosis compared with what was seen in vehicle-treated controls ($p<0.01$). The inhibitors did not induce apoptosis in normal B cells. Next steps could include screening for selective PDE7B inhibitors and evaluating the candidates in preclinical CLL models. CD 160130, a PDE4 inhibitor from Curacyte AG, is in preclinical testing to treat CLL. TPI-1100, a PDE4 and PDE7 inhibitor from Topigen Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). *SciBX* **2**(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.8 Published online Jan. 8, 2009	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Zhang, L. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Nov. 24, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0806152105 **Contact:** Paul A. Insel, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: pinsel@ucsd.edu