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THE DISTILLERY

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	CC chemokine receptor 7 (CCR7); chemokine C-C motif ligand 19 (CCL19); Notch homolog 1 translocation-associated (NOTCH1)	Studies in mice suggest that antagonizing CCR7 could help prevent the spread of ALL to the CNS. Human NOTCH1 expression in mice induced ALL, upregulated Ccr7, and enabled disease infiltration into the CNS. NOTCH1-expressing mice that received transplants of human ALL or mouse hematopoietic progenitor cells lacking CCR7 survived longer than mice that received transplants of cells expressing CCR7. *In vivo* imaging showed CNS disease infiltration only in mice that received CCR7-expressing cells, and histological analysis found higher levels of the Ccr7 ligand Ccl19 in the brain tissue of diseased animals than in that of controls. Ongoing work includes the generation of anti-CCR7 mAbs.	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	Buonamici, S. *et al*. *Nature*; published online June 17, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08020 **Contact:** Iannis Aifantis, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: iannis.aifantis@nyumc.org

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