

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)	Musashi homolog 2 (MSI2)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that antagonizing MSI2 could help prevent AML. In cultured human leukemia cells, MSI2 levels were higher in AML cells than in normal and chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) cells. In a mouse model of AML, small hairpin RNA knockdown of Msi2 decreased tumor levels and increased survival compared with what was seen using control shRNA. Next steps include screening for compounds that block MSI2's interaction with downstream regulatory proteins.</p> <p>At least 50 companies have AML therapies on the market and in various stages of development.</p> <p>SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.916 Published online Aug. 5, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Ito, T. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online July 19, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09171</p> <p>Contact: Tannishtha Reya, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: t.reya@duke.edu</p>