This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Myeloid leukemia cell differentiation protein (MCL1); B cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2)	*In vitro* studies suggest that MCL1 antagonists could help improve the efficacy of BCL2 inhibitors for treating ALL. In human ALL cell lines with high MCL1 levels, inhibition of MCL1 increased the sensitivity of a BCL2 inhibitor compared with that seen using vehicle control. Ongoing work includes determining the primary cause of resistance to BCL2 inhibitors in ALL. Omapro omacetaxine, an inhibitor of MCL1 and cyclin D1 (CCND1; BCL1) from ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Hospira Inc., is in registration to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and in Phase II testing to treat acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) and myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). AT-101, a small molecule pan-inhibitor of the BCL2 family of proteins including MCL1 from Ascenta Therapeutics Inc. and Ascentage Pharma Group Corp., is in Phase II testing to treat multiple cancers including non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and in Phase I/II testing to treat esophageal and small cell lung cancer (SCLC).	Findings patented by the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; available for licensing or partnering	Inuzuka, H. *et al. Nature*; published online March 2, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature09732 **Contact:** Wenyi Wei, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: wwei2@bidmc.harvard.edu

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