This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Gastrointestinal cancer	BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase; CTLA-4 (CD152)	<p>Mouse studies suggest combining Gleevec imatinib with immunotherapy could help treat gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs). In a transgenic mouse model of GISTs, antibody-mediated depletion of effector T cells decreased Gleevec's efficacy compared with no depletion. In the mice, imatinib plus anti-CTLA-4 immunotherapy increased effector T cell levels and reduced tumor growth compared with either compound alone. Next steps include testing the combination in clinical trials.</p> <p>Novartis AG markets Gleevec imatinib, a BCR-ABL inhibitor, to treat GISTs and other cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.985 Published online Sept. 8, 2011</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status unavailable	<p>Balachandran, V.P. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 28, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2438</p> <p>Contact: Ronald P. DeMatteo, Memorial Hospital, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: dematter@mskcc.org</p>