This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)	BCL2-like 11 apoptosis facilitator (BCL2L11; BIM)	<p>A study in mice suggests a stapled BIM peptide could help treat AML. The stapled BIM peptide is a helical peptide from the Bcl2 homology domain (BH3) of BIM that is stabilized by a chemical cross-link. In a xenograft mouse model of human AML, the stapled BIM peptide alone or in combination with navitoclax significantly decreased tumor growth compared with vehicle. Next steps include developing stapled BIM peptide analogs with improved potency and testing them in hematologic and other cancers. Abbott Laboratories and Roche's Genentech Inc. have navitoclax (ABT-263), a pan-inhibitor of B cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2) family proteins, in Phase I/II testing in small cell lung cancer and Phase I testing in additional cancers. At least six additional companies have antagonists of BCL2 family members in development stages from preclinical to Phase II testing for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.672 Published online June 28, 2012</p>	Patented; licensed to Aileron Therapeutics Inc.	<p>LaBelle, J.L. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 24, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI46231</p> <p>Contact: Loren D. Walensky, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: loren_walensky@dfci.harvard.edu</p>