This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myeloid leukemia (AML)	FMS-like tyrosine kinase 3 (FLT3; CD135)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest statins could help treat <i>FLT3</i>-mutant AML. In mouse bone marrow cells expressing mutant Flt3, Lescol fluvastatin prevented Flt3 glycosylation and cell surface translocation, which is required for FLT3-driven oncogenesis, and decreased proliferation compared with no treatment. In mice, fluvastatin decreased engraftment of mutant <i>Flt3</i>-expressing bone marrow cells and increased survival compared with saline. Next steps could include evaluating statins in combination with FLT3 inhibitors in mouse models of Flt3-driven AML. Novartis AG markets Lescol, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, to treat hypercholesterolemia and prevent cardiovascular disease.</p> <p>At least 10 companies have FLT3 inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.999 Published online Sept. 27, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Williams, A.B. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Aug. 27, 2012; doi:10.1182/blood-2012-01-403493 Contact: Donald Small, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: donsmall@jhmi.edu</p>