

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)	MDS1 and EVI1 complex locus (MECOM)	Cell-based and mouse studies suggest inhibiting MECOM could help treat AML. In bone marrow progenitor cells, myeloid-lymphoid or mixed-lineage leukemia (MLL; HRX) fusion protein-induced transformation was lower in cells lacking a functional MECOM allele than in cells containing a functional MECOM allele. In mice, transplant of <i>MECOM</i> ⁻ leukemic cells decreased the development of AML symptoms compared with <i>MECOM</i> ⁺ leukemic cells. Next steps include designing and synthesizing MECOM inhibitors and examining the role of MECOM in other cancers.	Patent filed by the University of Rochester; available for licensing	Zhang, Y. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online Sept. 10, 2013; doi:10.1182/blood-2012-08-453662 Contact: Archibald S. Perkins, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, N.Y. e-mail: archibald_perkins@urmc.rochester.edu
		SciBX 6(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1155 Published online Oct. 24, 2013		