

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)	AML1-ETO oncogenic fusion protein; cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest COX-2 inhibitors could help treat AML1-ETO⁺ AML. In normal mouse bone marrow cells, AML1-ETO overexpression increased both levels of Cox-2 and the self-renewing capacity of hematopoietic stem cells compared with no overexpression. In xenograft and orthotopic mouse models for AML1-ETO⁺ AML, a COX-2 inhibitor decreased the number and size of tumors compared with vehicle. Planned work includes a Phase II trial of an undisclosed NSAID to prevent relapse in AML.</p> <p>At least five companies have COX-2 inhibitors approved to treat pain, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), osteoarthritis and other indications.</p> <p>SciBX 6(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.482 Published online May 23, 2013</p>	Unpatented; available for partnering	<p>Zhang, Y. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online May 3, 2013; doi:10.1182/blood-2012-08-447763 Contact: Jing-Ruey Joanna Yeh, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jyeh1@partners.org</p>