This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Leukemia	Telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT)	<p>A mouse study suggests adoptive transfer of T cells expressing a TERT-specific T cell receptor (TCR) and additional small interfering RNAs could help treat adult T cell leukemia (ATL). A retroviral vector was engineered to express both a TERT-specific TCR and siRNAs that suppressed expression of endogenous TCRs, then transduced into CD8⁺ T cells. In mouse models for ATL, infusion of autologous or allogeneic T cells modified with the vector decreased tumor growth compared with infusion of unmodified cells. Next steps include determining whether the approach could be toxic to TERT-expressing normal tissues and measuring the proliferation of the adoptive T cells <i>in vivo</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 6(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.492 Published online May 23, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Miyazaki, Y. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online May 2, 2013; doi:10.1182/blood-2012-11-465971 Contact: Hiroshi Fujiwara, Ehime University Proteo-medicine Research Center, Toon, Japan e-mail: yunarief@m.ehime-u.ac.jp</p>