This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	Protein kinase B (PKB; PKBA; AKT; AKT1)	Studies in cell culture and mice suggest AKT inhibitors could be useful for treating glucocorticoid-resistant ALL. Glucocorticoids are a standard component of first-line therapy for ALL. In cultured T ALL (T-ALL) cells, forced activation of AKT inhibited the ability of glucocorticoids to promote apoptosis, whereas normal AKT activity did not. In a xenograft mouse model of T-ALL, the AKT inhibitor MK-2206 restored tumor sensitivity to glucocorticoids and increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps could include clinical testing of AKT inhibitors as an adjunct to T-ALL therapy. Merck & Co. Inc.'s MK-2206 is in Phase I and Phase II testing in a range of solid tumors. *SciBX* 7(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.80 Published online Jan. 23, 2014	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Piovan, E. *et al. Cancer Cell*; published online Nov. 27, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2013.10.022 **Contact:** Adolfo A. Ferrando, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: af2196@columbia.edu **Contact:** Andrea Califano, same affiliation as above e-mail: ac2248@columbia.edu