This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Wounds	Hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α (HIF1A); VEGF	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that the iron chelating agent deferoxamine could treat diabetic wounds. In high-glucose, hypoxic cell culture, deferoxamine increased proangiogenic VEGF expression. In a mouse model of diabetic wounds, topical deferoxamine enhanced wound healing and neovascularization compared with placebo. Ongoing work includes development of deferoxamine analogs and methods of topical delivery, and the design of Phase I trials.</p> <p>Regranex becaplermin, a gel formulation of recombinant platelet derived growth factor-β (PDGFB), is marketed by Johnson & Johnson to treat diabetic foot ulcers.</p> <p>Apligraf, a skin substitute made of bovine type I collagen plus human fibroblasts and keratinocytes, is marketed by Organogenesis Inc. to treat diabetic foot ulcers and venous leg ulcers.</p> <p>Cardium Therapeutics Inc.'s Excellerate (Ad5PDGF-B; GAM501), a topical collagen gel formulated with adenoviral vector encoding human PDGFB, is in Phase IIb testing to treat diabetic foot ulcers.</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Thangarajah, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 27, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0906670106</p> <p>Contact: Geoffrey C. Gurtner, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: ggurtner@stanford.edu</p>
<p>SciBX 2(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1180 Published online Aug. 6, 2009</p>				