This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Cataracts	EPH receptor A2 (EPHA2)	<p>A study in mice and in humans suggests that antagonizing EPHA2 could help prevent age-related cataracts. <i>Epha2</i> knockout mice developed cataracts soon after birth, unlike wild-type controls. In humans, carriers of mutations in the receptor tyrosine kinase EPHA2 had a higher incidence of cataracts than noncarrier controls. Next steps include testing the effects of small molecule EPHA2 modulators on cataract formation in mice.</p> <p>Othera Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s OT-551, a small molecule antioxidant, is in Phase II trials to treat cataracts.</p> <p>ESBAtch AG's ESBA105, a mAb against tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α), is in Phase I/II trials for cataracts.</p> <p>SciBX 2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1251 Published online Aug. 20, 2009</p>	Unpatented; small molecule modulators of EPHA2 are the subject of pending patents and are available for licensing	<p>Jun, G. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i>; published online July 31, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000584 Contact: Bingcheng Wang, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: bxw14@case.edu Contact: Sudha K. Iyengar, same affiliation as above e-mail: ski@case.edu</p>