This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Solid tumors; transplant rejection	VEGF receptor 2 (KDR/Flk-1; VEGFR- 2); VEGF-C	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture suggest that a soluble VEGFR-2 splice variant could help treat or prevent transplant rejection, lymphangiomas and other conditions associated with aberrant lymphangiogenesis. In a mouse model of corneal transplant, intracorneal injection of the VEGFR-2 splice variant more than doubled the transplant survival rate compared with injection of a control antibody or no treatment ($p < 0.05$). In developing mouse corneas, Vegfr-2 was identified as a Vegf-c antagonist, and in patient-isolated lymphangioma endothelial cells, the VEGFR-2 splice variant prevented VEGF-C-induced proliferation ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include studying the biological function and regulation of the VEGFR-2 splice variant and evaluating its use in high-risk corneal transplant models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1254 Published online Aug. 20, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the University of Kentucky Office for Commercialization & Economic Development	<p>Albuquerque, R.J.C. <i>et al.</i> <i>Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 9, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.2018 Contact: Jayakrishna Ambati, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. e-mail: jamba2@email.uky.edu</p>