This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS)	Annexin A2 (ANXA2); apolipoprotein H β-2-glycoprotein I (APOH; B2GPI)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting interactions between B2GPI and its receptor ANXA2 could help treat APS, a rare autoimmune disease. In cultured endothelial cells, an anti-ANXA2 mAb decreased expression of intracellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1), E-selectin (SELE) and tissue factor (TF), which are all upregulated in APS patients. In ANXA2 ^{-/-} mice with vascular injury, an anti-B2GPI mAb caused formation of smaller thrombi than those in wild-type mice. Next steps could include developing anti-ANXA2 antibodies or small molecule inhibitors of the receptor. TransMolecular Inc. has TM601, an angiogenesis inhibitor targeting ANXA2, in Phase I testing to treat brain cancer.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Roma-Penabad, Z. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online July 23, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-11-188698 Contact: Silvia S. Pierangeli, The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas e-mail: sspieran@utmb.edu
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