This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Diabetic retinopathy	Protein kinase C δ (PRKCD); Src homology protein tyrosine phosphatase 1 (SHP-1; SHPTP1; PTPN6)	A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that antagonizing PKCD and SHP-1 could help treat diabetic retinopathy. In a mouse model of diabetes, <i>Pkcd</i> knockout led to less apoptosis of retinal pericyte cells, which can contribute to retinopathy, and less disease-associated capillary formation than was seen in wild-type controls. In cultured bovine retinal endothelial cells, small interfering RNA knockdown of <i>SHP-1</i> and <i>PKCD</i> led to less glucose-induced apoptosis than occurred using mock control siRNA. Next steps include developing PKCD and SHP-1 inhibitors.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Geraldes, P. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Nov. 1, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.2052 Contact: George King, Joslin Diabetes Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: george.king@joslin.harvard.edu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1676 Published online Nov. 19, 2009				