This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)	Complement factor B (CFB)	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study suggests that CFB could be targeted to treat AMD. CFB is a serum protein that stimulates the complement pathway by activating complement 3 (C3) protein. Purified CFB from human donors who carried an AMD-protective variant of CFB showed a lower rate of C3 activation and hemolytic activity than did CFB isolated from noncarriers. Next steps include developing antibody therapeutics directed toward CFB and testing them in animal models of AMD or in clinical trials.</p> <p>Potentia Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s POT-4 C3 antagonist is in Phase I testing for AMD.</p> <p>Archemix Corp. and Ophthotech Corp. are jointly testing ARC1905, an aptamer against C5 protein, in Phase I AMD trials.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.467 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Sawa, Y. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online March 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812584106</p> <p>Contact: Claire L. Harris, Cardiff University, Cardiff, U.K. e-mail: harriscl@cardiff.ac.uk</p>