This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor (CSF2; GM-CSF); VEGF; prokineticin 2 (PROK2; Bv8)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that targeting GM-CSF or Bv8 could help treat tumors resistant to anti-VEGF therapies. Avastin-resistant murine tumors exhibited high levels of GM-CSF and Bv8 compared with Avastin-sensitive tumors. In tumor-bearing mice, an anti-GM-CSF or anti-Bv8 antibody lowered growth of resistant tumors 30–35% compared with that seen in Avastin-sensitive tumors. Either antibody plus Avastin lowered growth of resistant tumors 60–80% compared with that seen in Avastin-sensitive tumors. Future studies could include testing the combination therapies in other animal models of cancer.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit markets Avastin bevacizumab, an antibody against VEGF, to treat breast cancer, metastatic colorectal cancer, renal cell carcinoma (RCC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).</p> <p>BioVex Inc.'s OncoVEX GM-CSF, a modified herpes simplex virus (HSV-1) encoding GM-CSF, is in Phase III testing to treat melanoma.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.572 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Shojaei, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 30, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0902280106</p> <p>Contact: Napoleone Ferrara, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: nf@gene.com</p>