This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Various cancers	HER2 (ERBB2); VEGF	An <i>in vitro</i> and mouse study suggests that a mAb that simultaneously binds HER2 and VEGF could help treat cancer. An <i>in vitro</i> binding screen identified mutational variants of Herceptin, an anti-HER2 mAb, that could bind VEGF and HER2. In cultured human cells, one of the mAb variants inhibited cell growth at lower concentrations than Herceptin. In a mouse xenograft tumor model, the dual-specificity mAb lowered mean tumor volume compared with that seen in controls treated with comparable amounts of Herceptin or Avastin, an anti-VEGF mAb. Herceptin trastuzumab is marketed by Roche's Genentech Inc. unit to treat breast cancer. Avastin bevacizumab is marketed by Genentech to treat metastatic colorectal cancer, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and metastatic breast cancer. SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.576 Published online April 9, 2009	Patents filed by Genentech for production and use of dual specificity antibodies; licensing status undisclosed	Bostrom, J. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online March 20, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1165480 Contact: Germaine Fuh, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: gml@gene.com