This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Choroidal neovascularization (CNV)	VEGFB	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that antagonizing VEGFB could help treat neovascular diseases. Antagonizing VEGFA is already established as a strategy to block blood vessel growth in age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and cancer. In a mouse model of CNV, intravitreal injection of small hairpin RNA targeting VEGFB or antibodies against VEGFB increased expression of proapoptotic genes, decreased expression of prosurvival genes and inhibited CNV. In a mouse model of ischemia-induced retinal neovascularization, the shRNAs and antibodies inhibited retinal neovascularization. Next steps include identifying anti-VEGFB compounds for antiangiogenic effects in different disease models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.596 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Patent application filed; technology available for licensing through the NIH Office of Technology Transfer	<p>Zhang, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 30, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813061106</p> <p>Contact: Xuri Li, National Institutes of Health, Farmington, Conn. e-mail: lixur@nei.nih.gov</p>