This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Cancer; diabetic retinopathy; retinopathy of prematurity	H2A histone family, member X (H2AFX; H2AX)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting H2AFX could help treat cancer, diabetic retinopathy, retinopathy of prematurity and other diseases associated with hypoxia-induced neovascularization. <i>H2afx</i> knockout mice had a 50% decrease in pathological hypoxia-induced retinal neovascularization compared with that seen in wild-type controls. In a mouse model of lung carcinoma, tumor growth rate and neovascularization were significantly lower in <i>H2afx</i> knockout mice than they were in wild-type controls ($p < 0.01$ for both). Next steps include identifying H2AFX inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.675 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Economopoulou, M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online April 19, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1947</p> <p>Contact: Triantafyllos Chavakis, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: chavakist@mail.nih.gov</p>