This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	VEGF; fibronectin 1 (FN1); IL-2	<p>Studies on human serum samples suggest that VEGF and FN1 levels could help predict clinical response of metastatic melanoma and renal cell carcinoma to IL-2 therapy. Of 68 soluble factors identified in serum samples from patients treated with IL-2, 11 biomarkers were associated with clinical outcome. In particular, high levels of VEGF and FN1 correlated with a lack of clinical response to IL-2 and lower overall survival. Next steps include validating the biomarkers in larger prospective clinical trials.</p> <p>Eisai Co. Ltd. markets Ontak denileukin diftitox, a combination of IL-2 and diphtheria toxin to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL).</p> <p>Novartis AG has Macrolin aldesleukin, an IL-2 compound, in clinical testing and approved for various cancers, and Pivotal BioSciences Inc. has a low-toxicity analog of IL-2 in preclinical testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.698 Published online April 30, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Sabatino, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Oncol.</i>; published online April 13, 2009; doi:10.1200/JCO.2008.19.1106</p> <p>Contact: Howard L. Kaufman, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: hlk2003@columbia.edu</p>