This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP); diabetic retinopathy; age-related macular degeneration (AMD)	c-Jun N-terminal kinase 1 (JNK1); VEGF	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting JNK1 could help treat hypoxia-induced ocular diseases, including ROP, diabetic retinopathy and AMD. In a mouse model of ROP, mice lacking Jnk1 had less pathological angiogenesis and lower levels of retinal Vegf production than wild-type mice. Intravitreal injection of a JNK inhibitor decreased retinal Vegf levels and lowered retinal neovascularization in the mice without producing retinal damage or impairing retinal development compared with what was seen in controls. Next steps include testing peptide inhibitors of JNK1 in primate models of ocular pathologies.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.806 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Patent application pending for the use of JNK inhibitors to treat ocular pathologies; unlicensed	<p>Guma, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 4, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0902659106</p> <p>Contact: Michael Karin, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: mkarin@ucsd.edu</p>