This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Not applicable	<p>A study in mice, zebrafish and human cells identified several phosphatases and enzymes involved in prostaglandin and leukotriene synthesis that could be antagonized to help block angiogenesis. In mice, microarray analysis identified 50 genes encoding druggable targets that were specifically expressed in mouse microvasculature. In zebrafish, individual knockdown of 16 of these genes caused vascular defects. The targets included genes encoding protein phosphatases and two enzymes involved in prostaglandin and leukotriene synthesis. A parallel pharmacological screen in human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) identified small molecule phosphatase and prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors that lowered vascular sprouting compared with that in untreated controls. Next steps include testing the phosphatases in mouse models of tumor-associated angiogenesis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.866 Published online May 28, 2009</p>	Patented; available for licensing from BioInvent International AB	<p>Kalén, M. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online April 24, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.02.010 Contact: Mats Hellström, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: Mats.Hellstrom@ki.se</p>