This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Sickle cell disease	P selectin (SELP; CD62P)	<p>Mouse studies identified an anti-SELP aptamer that could help treat sickle cell disease. In a knockout mouse model of sickle cell disease, intraperitoneal delivery of an anti-SELP aptamer decreased hypoxia-induced red blood cell adhesion to leukocytes and endothelial cells, increased microvascular flow velocities and decreased mortality compared with delivery of a scrambled aptamer or saline control. Next steps could include testing the aptamer with other anti-cell adhesion compounds in animal models of sickle cell disease.</p> <p>GlycoMimetics Inc.'s GMI-1070, a pan-selectin inhibitor, is in Phase I/II testing to treat sickle cell disease.</p> <p>RG1512, an anti-SELP antibody from Roche and Genmab A/S, is in Phase I testing to treat peripheral vascular disease (PVD).</p> <p>SciBX 3(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1267 Published online Oct. 28, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Gutsaeva, D.R. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Oct. 6, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2010-05-285718 Contact: C. Alvin Head, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Ga. e-mail: ahead@mail.mcg.edu</p>