This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Kaposi's sarcoma	Delta-like ligand 4 (DLL4); jagged 1 (JAG1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that soluble DLL4 could help treat Kaposi's sarcoma. Compared with uninfected cells, endothelial cells infected with Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus had activated Notch receptors and higher levels of DLL4 and JAG1, which are membrane-bound Notch ligands. In infected cells, a soluble DLL4 decoy protein inhibited growth compared with control protein. In mice with Kaposi's sarcoma xenografts, soluble DLL4 inhibited tumor cell growth, induced tumor cell death and reduced vessel perfusion compared with no treatment. Next steps could include testing soluble DLL4 and its analogs in animal cancer models.</p> <p>At least five companies have compounds targeting DLL4 in clinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.45 Published online Jan. 14, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Liu, R. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Nov. 24, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-08-236745 Contact: Parkash S. Gill, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: parkashg@usc.edu</p>