This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Hypertension	Placental growth factor (PGF; PlGF)	<p>A study in human samples and in mice suggests that inhibiting PlGF could help prevent pulmonary hypertension in patients with sickle cell disease. In samples from sickle cell disease patients, plasma PlGF levels were eight times higher than those in healthy controls. In those patients, increased PlGF levels were significantly associated with greater peak pulmonary artery pressures ($p < 0.001$). Next steps include evaluating the effect of PlGF inhibitors in patients with sickle cell disease-associated pulmonary hypertension.</p> <p>RG7334 (formerly TB-403), a mAb against PlGF from BioInvent International AB, ThromboGenics N.V. and Roche, is in Phase I testing for solid tumors.</p> <p>VEGF Trap aflibercept, a fusion protein that binds VEGF-A and PlGF from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and sanofi-aventis Group, is in Phase III testing for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.466 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Sundaram, N. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online March 24, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-09-244830</p> <p>Contact: Punam Malik, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio</p> <p>e-mail: punam.malik@cchmc.org</p>