This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Placental growth factor (PGF; PlGF)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting PlGF could help treat cancer and wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD). In multiple mouse tumor models, inhibition of PlGF signaling by genetic knockout, small interfering RNA knockdown or anti-PlGF mAbs reduced tumor growth compared with that in controls. In a mouse model of wet AMD, anti-PlGF mAbs blocked PlGF-driven choroid neovascularization compared with that seen using a control antibody. In the same mouse model, an anti-PlGF mAb plus a VEGF inhibitor resulted in stronger inhibition of choroid neovascularization than either compound alone. Next steps include testing different PlGF antibodies in more disease models.</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. Regeneron and partner Bayer AG also have VEGF Trap-Eye in Phase III testing for AMD and retinal vein occlusion.</p> <p>SciBX 3(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.491 Published online April 22, 2010</p>	<p>Anti-PlGF antibodies and their use in multiple diseases are covered by multiple issued and pending patents; patents have been exclusively licensed to ThromboGenics</p> <p>ThromboGenics and partner BioInvent International are partnered with Roche to advance the development anti-PlGF antibodies</p>	<p>Van de Veire, S. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online April 2, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.02.039</p> <p>Contact: Peter Carmeliet, Vesalius Research Center, K.U. Leuven, Leuven, Belgium e-mail: peter.carmeliet@vib-kuleuven.be</p>