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 PlGF inhibition is unable to inhibit angiogenesis and tumor growth to treat cancer. In multiple mouse tumor models, anti-PlGF mAbs failed to inhibit tumor growth, whereas an anti-VEGF-A mAb significantly reduced tumor growth compared with a control mAb ($p < 0.05$). In two of those mouse tumor models, combining an anti-VEGF-A mAb with an anti-PlGF mAb led to tumor growth inhibition that was comparable to that of the anti-VEGF-A mAb alone. Genentech, Inc. did not disclose next steps, which could include validation studies in different animal models and with different anti-PlGF mAbs.</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>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.2010.492 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>Bais, C. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online April 2, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.01.033 Contact: Napoleone Ferrara, Genentech, Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: nf@gene.com Contact: Carlos Bais, same affiliation as above e-mail: bais@gene.com</p>