This week in therapeutics (continued)

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Thrombocytopenia	von Willebrand factor (VWF)	<p>A study in mice suggests that <i>N</i>-acetylcysteine could help treat thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), which is characterized by thrombi in microvasculature caused by adhesion of platelets to VWF multimers. In wild-type mice, <i>N</i>-acetylcysteine decreased the size of VWF multimers compared with saline. In a mouse model of TTP, <i>N</i>-acetylcysteine lowered time to thrombus resolution and thrombus size compared with no treatment. Next steps include looking for ultra-large VWF multimers in patients and evaluating the effects of <i>N</i>-acetylcysteine in these patients.</p> <p><i>N</i>-acetylcysteine is available generically and is used as a mucolytic agent and for treating acetaminophen overdose.</p> <p>SciBX 4(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.195 Published online Feb. 17, 2011</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Chen, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Jan. 27, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI41062</p> <p>Contact: José A. López, Puget Sound Blood Center, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: josel@psbcresearch.org</p>