This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	VEGF receptor 3 (FLT4)	<p>Patient tissue and mouse studies suggest that destroying tumor-associated lymphatic vessels could help prevent metastasis. In a mouse tumor model, photodynamic therapy using the antilymphangiogenesis agent Visudyne verteporfin plus an anti-FLT4 antibody eliminated tumor lymphatic vessels and decreased local metastases compared with only photodynamic therapy, only antibody or no treatment. Ongoing work includes exploring the feasibility of photodynamic therapy-based treatment to prevent metastases in cancer patients.</p> <p>QLT Inc. and Novartis AG market Visudyne, a light-activated benzoporphyrin derivative, to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and choroidal neovascularization (CNV).</p> <p>SciBX 4(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.219 Published online Feb. 24, 2011</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Tammela, T. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 9, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001699</p> <p>Contact: Tuomas Tammela, Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland, Helsinki, Finland e-mail: tuomas.tammela@helsinki.fi</p>