This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Delta-like 4 (DLL4)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting the DLL4-NOTCH signaling pathway could help decrease resistance to VEGF inhibitors in cancer. In mice, transplantation of human glioblastoma cells overexpressing the NOTCH ligand DLL4 led to resistance to the VEGF inhibitor Avastin bevacizumab, and increased tumor growth and decreased survival compared with transplantation of cells expressing a control vector. In the xenograft model, Avastin plus an inhibitor of the NOTCH pathway lowered tumor growth and increased survival compared with either treatment alone. Next steps could include testing the strategy in models of other cancers. OncoMed Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. separately have anti-DLL4 mAbs OMP-21M18 and REGN421 in Phase I testing for solid tumors. Genentech Inc., Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Roche market Avastin to treat multiple cancers. SciBX 4(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.928 Published online Aug. 25, 2011	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Li, J.-L. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online July 29, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-1704 Contact: Ji-Liang Li, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: ji-liang.li@imm.ox.ac.uk