This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	VEGF receptor 2 (KDR/Flk-1; VEGFR-2)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting VEGFR-2 could help treat glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). In glioma stem cells, cell surface expression of VEGFR-2 was greater than that in nonstem glioma cells. In cultured GBM cells, small hairpin RNA against VEGFR-2 increased apoptosis compared with control shRNA. In xenograft mice implanted with GBM cells, a VEGFR-2 kinase inhibitor decreased tumor formation and increased survival compared with vehicle or the anti-VEGF antibody Avastin bevacizumab. Next steps could include testing VEGFR-2-specific inhibition in additional GBM disease models.</p> <p>Roche's Genentech Inc. unit and Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. market Avastin to treat several cancers including GBM.</p> <p>SciBX 5(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.328 Published online March 29, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hamerlik, P. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online March 5, 2012; doi:10.1084/jem.20111424 Contact: Jiri Bartek, Danish Cancer Society Research Center and Centre for Genotoxic Stress Research, Copenhagen, Denmark e-mail: jb@cancer.dk Contact: Jeremy N. Rich, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: richj@ccf.org</p>