This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer; melanoma	Hepatocyte growth factor/scatter factor (HGF/SF); VEGF	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest HGF/SF and VEGF variants that do not bind heparan sulfate (HS) could help treat cancer. Isoforms of HGF/SF and VEGF that normally bind HS as part of receptor signaling complexes were engineered to disrupt HS binding. In cellular assays, the protein variants antagonized downstream receptor signaling. In a mouse model of melanoma metastasis, intraperitoneal injection of the HGF/SF variant decreased metastatic burden compared with no injection. Next steps include evaluating the HGF/SF variant in preclinical models of other cancers and developing a recombinant expression system for the VEGF variant.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Cecchi, F. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i> ; published online Aug. 14, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2012.06.029 Contact: Donald P. Bottaro, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: dbottaro@helix.nih.gov
SciBX 5(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.923 Published online Sept. 6, 2012				