This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Stem cell transplant	Prostaglandin E ₂ receptor EP4 subtype (prostanoid EP4 receptor; PTGER4)	<p><i>In vivo</i> studies suggest PTGER4 inhibition could help stimulate hematopoietic progenitor cell (HPC) mobilization into peripheral blood for transplantation. In mice, injection of Mobic meloxicam to decrease prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂) production or knockout of <i>Ptger4</i> both induced mobilization of HPCs to peripheral blood without reducing white blood cell counts. In these mice, meloxicam followed by G-CSF (CSF3) increased mobilization of HPCs for transplant compared with G-CSF alone. In nonhuman primates and in humans, meloxicam also stimulated HPC mobilization to peripheral blood. Next steps could include evaluating the effect of current pharmacological inhibitors of PTGER4 on HPC mobilization in animal models.</p> <p>Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH markets Mobic to treat pain and various autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>At least five companies have PTGER4 antagonists in Phase II testing or earlier to treat various diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 6(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.291 Published online March 28, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hoggatt, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 13, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature11929 Contact: Louis M. Pelus, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Ind. e-mail: lpelus@iupui.edu</p>