This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Diabetic retinopathy	Cysteine-rich angiogenic inducer 61 (CYR61; CCN1)	<p>Patient and mouse studies suggest targeting CCN1 and its degradation products could help treat proliferative diabetic retinopathy. In patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy, vitreal fluid samples showed higher levels of a truncated, two-domain CCN1 variant than samples from nondiabetic individuals. In mouse models for retinopathy, overexpression of the full-length, four-domain CCN1 or a truncated, three-domain variant decreased pathological ischemia-induced neovascularization compared with expression of a control vector, whereas vector-mediated expression of the truncated, two-domain variant increased pathological neovascularization. Next steps include studies in additional patient samples to determine if clinical parameters of diabetic retinopathy correlate with qualitative and quantitative changes in CCN1.</p> <p>SciBX 6(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.801 Published online Aug. 8, 2013</p>	<p>Patent application filed; licensing details available from the SUNY Downstate Medical Center Office of Scientific Affairs and Biotechnology</p>	<p>Choi, J. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online June 24, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.475418 Contact: Brahim Chaqour, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. e-mail: bchaqour@downstate.edu</p>