This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)	Phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN; MMAC1; TEP1)	Studies in mice suggest that activating or upregulating PTEN in retinal tissues may be useful for treating dry AMD. In infant mice, knockout of Pten in retinal pigment epithelium cells led to progressive cell degeneration, whereas controls expressing Pten had normal retinal development. Electron microscopy showed that the loss of Pten led to an absence of intercellular adhesions in the retinal pigment epithelium cells. Next steps include identifying the downstream effects of PTEN inactivation that correlate with AMD pathogenesis in retinal pigment epithelial cells.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Kim, J.W. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i> ; published online Nov. 7, 2008; doi:10.1101/gad.1700108 Contact: Greg Lemke, The Salk Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: lemke@salk.edu Contact: Jin Woo Kim, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon, South Korea e-mail: jinwookim@kaist.ac.kr
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