

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Kaposi's sarcoma	Ephrin-B2 (EFNB2); EPH receptor B4 (EPHB4)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting EFNB2 activity may be useful for treating Kaposi's sarcoma. In mice with Kaposi's sarcoma xenografts, a fusion protein consisting of the soluble form of EPHB4, which binds exclusively to EFNB2, and human serum albumin inhibited tumor growth. Also in xenograft mice, the fusion protein lowered liver metastasis compared with that seen in controls, whereas the fusion protein plus an anti-VEGF mAb completely blocked liver metastasis. Researchers did not disclose next steps. VasGene Therapeutics Inc. has mAbs targeting EPHB4 and EFNB2 in preclinical testing to treat cancer.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 1(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.922 Published online Oct. 23, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Scehnet, J.S. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Oct. 3, 2008; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-02-140020 Contact: Parkash S. Gill, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: parkashg@usc.edu</p>