

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	Activated protein C (APC); protein C receptor, endothelial (EPCR; PROCR)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that treatment with APC or overexpression of its receptor, EPCR, could be useful for lowering melanoma metastasis. Pretreatment of endothelial monolayers with recombinant human APC significantly decreased melanoma cell adhesion and transmigration through the monolayer compared with what was seen in untreated control cells ($p < 0.01$). In mouse models of metastatic melanoma, transgenic Epcr-overexpressing mice had 50% and 92% less liver and lung metastases, respectively, than wild-type mice. Next steps include investigating whether treatment with APC lowers metastasis of other types of cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.268 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	Provisional patent application being filed for use of APC to treat cancer metastasis; unlicensed	<p>Bezuhly, M. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-05-159434 Contact: Robert S. Liwski, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada e-mail: rliwski@dal.ca</p>