

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Cancer</b>				
Cancer	Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR); platelet-derived growth factor receptor (PDGFR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that marketed VEGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors may need further evaluation of optimal dose, treatment schedule, adjuvant therapy and combination therapy to improve safety and efficacy. In a mouse model of human breast cancer cell metastasis, short-term treatment with Sutent sunitinib accelerated metastasis and lowered mean survival compared with what was seen with vehicle controls. Similar results were seen with the VEGF inhibitors Nexavar sorafenib and SU10944. In xenograft mice with primary breast cancer tumors, sunitinib decreased growth of the primary tumor but also led to increased metastatic burden. Next steps could include evaluating combination therapies of angiogenesis inhibitors with compounds that block tumor metastasis or cell invasion.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets Sutent, an inhibitor of VEGFR and PDGFR, to treat renal and gastrointestinal cancers. Onyx Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Bayer AG market Nexavar to treat renal cancer.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.398</b>  <b>Published online March 12, 2009</b></p>	Patent cooperation treaty application filed in 2001 covering use of antiangiogenic therapies in combination with chemotherapeutic agents; available for licensing	<p>Ebos, J. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online March 2, 2009;            doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2009.01.021</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Robert S. Kerbel, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada            e-mail: <a href="mailto:robert.kerbel@sunnybrook.ca">robert.kerbel@sunnybrook.ca</a></p>