This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Anemia	Erythropoietin receptor (EPO receptor)	*In vitro* and *in vivo* studies suggest that the EPO mimetic CNTO 530 could be more potent than existing mimetics in treating anemia. In mice, a single dose of CNTO 530, a dimeric EPO mimetic peptide fused to a human IgG4 Fc scaffold, led to a greater and more persistent increase in erythropoietic activity than that seen using epoetin alfa or darbepoetin alfa. In mice, chemotherapy-induced anemia was decreased by CNTO 530 compared with that seen using darbepoietin-alpha. Next steps include clinical testing of the compound. Aranesp darbepoetin alfa and Epogen epoetin alfa are marketed by Amgen Inc. At least 15 other companies have compounds targeting the EPO receptor in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed for treatment of anemia.	Findings patented by Johnson & Johnson's Centocor Inc. unit; available for partnering	Sathyanarayana, P. *et al. Blood*; published online March 5, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-08-172320 **Contact:** Don M. Wojchowski, Maine Medical Center Research Institute, Scarborough, Maine e-mail: wojchd@mmc.org

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