This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Cardiovascular disease	Placental growth factor (PGF; PlGF)	<p>Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest that PGF inhibition could help treat cardiovascular disease. In blood vessels from patients who required a coronary artery bypass graft, PGF expression was greater than that in healthy controls. In a mouse model of vascular damage, PGF knockout decreased smooth muscle cell proliferation, extracellular matrix deposition and blood vessel thickening compared with those in wild-type mice. Next steps include testing inhibitors of PGF and its receptor, VEGF receptor 1 (FLT1; VEGFR-1), in a mouse model of vascular injury.</p> <p>RG7334 (formerly TB-403), a mAb against PGF from BioInvent International AB, ThromboGenics N.V. and Roche, is in Phase I testing for solid tumors.</p> <p>VEGF Trap aflibercept, a fusion protein that binds VEGF-A and PGF from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and sanofi-aventis Group, is in Phase III testing for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1180 Published online Oct. 7, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing</p> <p>Contact: Colm Lawler, Tufts Medical Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: colm.lawler@tufts.edu</p>	<p>Jaffe, I.Z. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Oct. 3, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI40205</p> <p>Contact: Iris Z. Jaffe, Molecular Cardiology Research Institute, Tufts Medical Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: ijaffe@tuftsmedicalcenter.org</p>