

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	VEGF; fibroblast growth factor (FGF)	<i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies identified heparan sulfate mimetics that could help treat cancer by disrupting the interactions of angiogenic growth factors like FGF and VEGF. In a mouse model of melanoma, two of the mimetics decreased tumor volume compared with vehicle control. Next steps include additional preclinical testing of the most advanced mimetic. Progen Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has a heparan sulfate mimetic in Phase II testing to treat melanoma.	Composition-of-matter and use patent application filed for heparan sulfate mimetic compounds; available for licensing from Progen Pharmaceuticals	Johnstone, K. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online Feb. 3, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm901449m Contact: Vito Ferro, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia e-mail: v.ferro@uq.edu.au Contact: Ian Bytheway, Progen Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Toowong, Queensland, Australia e-mail: IanB@progen-pharma.com
		SciBX 3(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.213 Published online Feb. 18, 2010		