

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Skin cancer	Neuropilin 1 (NRP1); VEGF receptor 2 (KDR/Flk-1; VEGFR-2)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting VEGFR-2 or NRP1 could deplete skin cancer stem cells (CSCs) and help treat the disease. In a mouse model of squamous skin cancer, an anti-VEGFR-2 mAb depleted the CSC population and caused tumor regression, whereas control IgG did not. In mice, Nrp1 deletion lowered VEGF-induced renewal, expansion and proliferation of CSCs compared with no Nrp1 deletion. Next steps include validating the effect of NRP1 inhibition on tumor cell self-renewal and tumor growth. RG7347, a recombinant mAb that binds NRP1 from Roche's Genentech Inc. unit, is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 4(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1208 Published online Nov. 3, 2011</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Beck, B. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Oct. 19, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10525</p> <p>Contact: Cédric Blanpain, Free University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium e-mail: Cedric.Blanpain@ulb.ac.be</p>