This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Notch 1 (NOTCH1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that targeting NOTCH1 to treat cancer could have undesirable side effects. Prior work suggested that selectively antagonizing NOTCH1 could avoid gastrointestinal toxicity caused by blockade of all Notch family receptors. However, mice engineered to shut off only Notch1 expression in adulthood developed corneal hyperplasia and hepatic vascular tumors and had lower survival due to hemorrhage compared with controls expressing Notch1. Next steps include testing whether inhibiting downstream components of the NOTCH1 signaling pathway can avoid those side effects.</p> <p>OncoMed Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s OMP-21M18, a mAb that blocks signaling by NOTCH1 activator delta-like ligand 4 (DLL4), is in Phase Ib testing for solid tumors and is partnered with GlaxoSmithKline plc.</p> <p>Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s REGN421, a mAb targeting DLL4, is in Phase I testing for solid tumors and is partnered with sanofi-aventis Group.</p> <p>Aveo Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Roche's Genentech Inc. unit have separate preclinical mAbs targeting NOTCH1 for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.157 Published online Feb. 10, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Liu, Z. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI43114</p> <p>Contact: Raphael Kopan, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: Kopan@wustl.edu</p>