

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Anemia	Hemochromatosis type 2 juvenile (HFE2); hepcidin	<p>A study in rats suggests a soluble form of HFE2 may help treat anemia of chronic disease. In a rat model of anemia of chronic disease, a construct consisting of the extracellular domain of HFE2 fused to immunoglobulin Fc (HFE2-Fc) decreased both liver expression of the iron regulator hepcidin and anemia compared with vehicle. Next steps include investigating the effects of HFE2-Fc in additional animal models.</p> <p>Noxxon Pharma AG's NOX-H94, an L-aptamer targeting hepcidin, is in preclinical development for anemia.</p> <p>Pieris AG's PRS-080, an anticalin targeting hepcidin, is also in preclinical development for anemia.</p> <p>Ferrumax Pharmaceuticals Inc. did not disclose their next steps.</p> <p>SciBX 4(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.797 Published online July 21, 2011</p>	HFE2-Fc patented by Massachusetts General Hospital; exclusively licensed to Ferrumax Pharmaceuticals	<p>Theurl, I. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online July 5, 2011; doi:10.1182/blood-2011-03-345066</p> <p>Contact: Guenter Weiss, Medical University Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria e-mail: guenter.weiss@i-med.ac.at</p>