

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Diabetic retinopathy; diabetic macular edema (DME)	Angiopoietin-like 4 (ANGPTL4)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest inhibiting ANGPTL4 could help treat ischemic retinopathies such as DME. Increased vascular permeability is a marker of ischemic retinal diseases. In a mouse model of oxygen-induced retinopathy, hypoxic retinal Müller cells were shown to promote vascular permeability by upregulation of <i>Angptl4</i> expression. In a human Müller cell line, RNAi knockdown of ANGPTL4 inhibited the cell line's ability to promote endothelial cell permeability. Next steps include confirming the expression of ANGPTL4 in patients who have ischemic retinopathies and evaluating the effects of ANGPTL4 inhibition in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 6(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1005 Published online Sept. 19, 2013</p>	Patent application filed covering inhibition of ANGPTL4 for treatment of pathological angiogenesis in the eye; available for licensing	<p>Xin, X. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 19, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1217091110</p> <p>Contact: Akrit Sodhi, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: asodhi1@jhmi.edu</p>