

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Placental growth factor (PGF; PlGF); neuropilin 1 (NRP1)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting PlGF or NRP1 could help treat medulloblastoma. In medulloblastoma samples of different subtypes, expression of PlGF and its NRP1 receptor was greater than that in cerebellum samples from healthy controls. In genetic and xenograft mouse models for medulloblastoma, an antibody against human and mouse PlGF inhibited primary tumor growth and spinal metastasis and increased survival compared with a control antibody. Next steps include clinical trials.</p> <p>ThromboGenics N.V. and BioInvent International AB have TB-403, a mAb targeting PlGF, in Phase I/II testing to treat brain cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.234 Published online March 14, 2013</p>	Patented; licensed to ThromboGenics; unavailable for licensing	<p>Snuderl, M. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Feb. 28, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.01.036</p> <p>Contact: Rakesh K. Jain, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jain@steele.mgh.harvard.edu</p>