

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Phosducin-like 3 (PDCL3); VEGF receptor 2 (KDR/Flk-1; VEGFR-2)	<p>Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting PDCL3 could help treat VEGFR-2-dependent angiogenesis in tumors. In an aortic endothelial cell line, vector-mediated overexpression of <i>PDCL3</i> increased VEGFR-2 stability and VEGFR-2-dependent capillary tube formation compared with wild-type <i>PDCL3</i> expression. In a human umbilical vascular endothelial cell line, small interfering RNA-mediated knockdown of <i>PDCL3</i> decreased VEGFR-2 protein levels and VEGF-dependent capillary tube formation compared with no knockdown. In human embryonic kidney cells, coexpression of <i>VEGFR-2</i> and <i>PDCL3</i> increased cell proliferation compared with expression of either protein alone. Next steps include conducting <i>in vivo</i> tests of PDCL3 function and developing small molecule inhibitors of PDCL3.</p> <p>SciBX 6(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.752 Published online Aug. 1, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Srinivasan, S. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online June 21, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.473173 Contact: Nader Rahimi, Boston University Medical Campus, Boston, Mass. e-mail: nrahimi@bu.edu</p>