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This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Sepsis	Angiopoietin 2 (ANG2; ANGPT2)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting ANG2 could help treat sepsis. ANG2 is upregulated during sepsis. In mice, endothelium-specific ANG2 overexpression increased microvascular disturbances, hypotension and dilatory cardiomyopathy compared with normal expression. In a mouse model for sepsis, two ANG2-targeting antibodies attenuated microvascular and cardiac deterioration and decreased mortality compared with a control antibody. Next steps include testing the antibodies in additional mouse models and larger animal models of sepsis. Roche's RG7221, a bispecific mAb targeting VEGF and ANG2, is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors. Amgen Inc. and Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. have trebananib, a recombinant Fc-peptide fusion protein (peptibody) targeting angiopoietins, in Phase III or earlier testing for various cancers. Silence Therapeutics plc has Atu111, a small interfering RNA lipoplex against ANG2, in preclinical development to treat sepsis. At least three other companies have ANG2-targeting compounds in Phase I testing or earlier to treat cancer or acute lung injury. *SciBX* 6(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.795 Published online Aug. 8, 2013	Antibodies patented by Roche for treatment of cancer, vascular disease and retinopathies; licensing status unavailable	Ziegler, T. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online July 1, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI66549 **Contact:** Christian Kupatt, Klinikum Grosshadern of the Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany e-mail: christian.kupatt@med.uni-muenchen.de