

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Anemia	Hepcidin	<p>Mouse and nonhuman primate studies identified a humanized antihepcidin antibody that could help treat anemia of inflammation. Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) can help treat anemia, but inflammation-induced hepcidin can lower the efficacy of ESAs by sequestering iron. In a mouse model of anemia of inflammation with human hepcidin expression, an ESA plus a humanized, antihepcidin antibody increased iron levels and hemoglobin production in red blood cells compared with an ESA alone. In nonhuman primates, the antihepcidin antibody increased serum iron levels compared with saline. Next steps could include evaluating the antihepcidin antibody in additional animal anemia models.</p> <p>Noxxon Pharma AG's hepcidin inhibitor, NOX-H94, is in Phase II testing to treat anemia.</p> <p>At least two other companies have hepcidin inhibitors or antibodies in Phase I testing or earlier to treat anemia.</p> <p>SciBX 6(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.995 Published online Sept. 19, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Cooke, K.S. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Aug. 14, 2013; doi:10.1182/blood-2013-06-505792 Contact: Barbra J. Sasu, Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, Calif. e-mail: bjohnso@amgen.com</p>