

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Anemia	Hepcidin	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified modified forms of heparin that could help treat chronic anemia. Heparin preparations were subjected to an oxidation-reduction modification process that removed their anticoagulant activity. In a mouse model of chronic anemia, injection of the modified heparins decreased serum and liver hepcidin levels and increased serum iron concentration compared with saline injection, without causing bleeding. Next steps include optimizing dose and timing of treatment in mice or rats.</p> <p>Noxxon Pharma AG has the hepcidin inhibitor Lexaptepid pegol in Phase II testing to treat anemia.</p> <p>At least two other companies have hepcidin inhibitors in Phase I or earlier testing to treat anemia.</p> <p>SciBX 7(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.201 Published online Feb. 20, 2014</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Poli, M. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Jan. 7, 2014; doi:10.1182/blood-2013-07-515221 Contact: Paolo Arosio, University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy e-mail: arosio@med.unibs.it</p>