

Targeting Tiny Blood Vessels: Breakthroughs in Cancer and Macular Degeneration

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It has long been known that growth of blood vessels (angiogenesis) can facilitate tumor growth by providing oxygen and nutrients to tumor cells. Also, uncontrolled angiogenesis may result in vision loss as the fragile new vessels have a propensity for bleeding and leaking, resulting in photoreceptor damage. New discoveries from the Ferrara lab have clarified the mechanisms of angiogenesis, which has enabled the development of new, targeted therapies to treat cancer and intraocular neo-vascular diseases such as age-related macular degeneration.