This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Glaucoma	Heat shock protein 27 (HSP27); HSP60	Studies <i>in vitro</i> and in rats showed that autoantibodies of HSPs induce retinal ganglion cell death, suggesting that immunomodulatory strategies could potentially treat some subsets of glaucoma. Serum levels of HSP autoantibodies are higher in some glaucoma patients. HSP27 and HSP60 immunization in Lewis rats caused greater retinal ganglion cell and axon loss and higher levels of T cell infiltration than what was seen in mock-treated rats. Further studies are necessary to determine whether plasmapheresis is able to remove the antibodies and prevent the disease in immunized mice.	Findings unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Wax, M. <i>et. al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Nov. 12, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3200-08.2008 Contact: Martin B. Wax, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, Texas e-mail: mbw817@yahoo.com
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