

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Dermal ulcers	Granulysin	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that targeting granulysin could help treat the skin disease Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis. Gene expression profiles of blister cells identified the secretory 15 kDa form of granulysin as the most highly expressed cytotoxic molecule. Levels of granulysin in blisters were several orders of magnitude higher than those in blisters from other skin conditions or those in serum from healthy controls. Intradermal injection of granulysin into nude or shaved mice induced blistering and symptoms of SJS and toxic epidermal necrolysis. Next steps should include identification of a neutralizing antibody that targets granulysin.</p> <p>Forticell Bioscience Inc.'s OrCel, a cell-seeded sponge to treat dermal ulcers associated with SJS and toxic epidermal necrolysis, is under regulatory review. PharmiGene Inc. markets the PG1502 DNA diagnostic kit for the condition.</p> <p>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1101 Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Chung, W. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 23, 2008; doi:10.1038/nm.1884</p> <p>Contact: Yuan-Tsong Chen, Academia Sinica, Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: chen0010@ibms.sinica.edu.tw</p>