

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Meningitis	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 3 (CCL3); CCL4; CCL5	<p>Mouse studies suggest that blocking CD8⁺ T cell-derived chemokines could help treat viral meningitis. In mice infected with lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, high levels of CCL3, CCL4 and CCL5 in the CNS correlated with infiltration of neutrophils and monocytes into the meninges, with subsequent blood-brain barrier leakage and fatal seizures. Injection of anti-CD8 antibodies lowered the number of monocytes and neutrophils in the CNS and prevented the onset of seizures compared with what was seen in untreated controls. Next steps include targeting chemokines and their receptors to decrease neutrophil and monocyte recruitment <i>in vivo</i> and increasing the duration of CD8⁺ T cell interactions with infected cells.</p> <p>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1108 Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Kim, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Nov. 16, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07591</p> <p>Contact: Dorian McGavern, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: mcgad@scripps.edu</p> <p>Contact: Michael Dustin, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: Michael.Dustin@med.nyu.edu</p>