This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Glomerulonephritis	Bacterial fimbrial adhesion (fimH); lysosomal-associated membrane protein 2 autoantibodies (LAMP2 autoantibodies)	<p>Studies in rats and in patient samples suggest that screening for LAMP2 autoantibodies and fimH may be useful for early diagnosis of pauci-immune focal necrotizing glomerulonephritis (FNGN) in patients with bacterial infections. An ELISA-based test showed that 78 of 84 sera samples from FNGN patients contained LAMP2 autoantibodies. Also, 9 of the 13 patients had an infection with fimH-expressing bacteria prior to developing FNGN. Human LAMP2 and bacterial fimH show stretches of sequence homology. Next steps include validating LAMP2 and fimH as disease markers for pauci-immune FNGN in preclinical models.</p> <p>Nefecon, an oral small molecule that downregulates the kidney's inflammatory process from Pharmedica AB and Archimedes Pharma Ltd., is in Phase II testing to treat glomerulonephritis.</p> <p>At least two other companies have compounds to treat glomerulonephritis in preclinical testing.</p> <p>SciBX 1(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.935 Published online Oct. 23, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Kain, R. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 5, 2008; doi:10.1038/nm.1874</p> <p>Contact: Renate Kain, Medical University of Vienna, Wien, Austria e-mail: renate.kain@meduniwien.ac.at</p>