This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	Unc-93 homolog B1 (UNC93B1)	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing UNC93B1 could be useful for treating SLE. UNC93B1 is an endoplasmic reticulum protein involved in the intracellular trafficking of multiple toll-like receptors (TLRs): TLR3, TLR7 and TLR9. In a mouse model of SLE, mice carrying a mutation in UNC93B1 that disrupted TLR-UNC93B1 interactions had lower levels of SLE-associated autoantibodies and improved survival compared with mice that expressed wild-type UNC93B1. Next steps include screening for selective inhibitors of UNC93B1's interaction with TLRs.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc.'s CPG 52364, an antagonist of TLR7, TLR8 and TLR9, is in Phase I trials for SLE. Idera Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s CPG 52364, a dual TLR7 and TLR9 antagonist, is in preclinical development for SLE.</p> <p>SciBX 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1066 Published online July 16, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Kono, D.H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 29, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0905441106</p> <p>Contact: Bruce A. Beutler, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: bruce@scripps.edu</p> <p>Contact: Dwight H. Kono, same affiliation as above e-mail: dkono@scripps.edu</p>