This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	IL-17; IL-6; interferon- γ (IFN- γ); signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)	Studies in mice and tumor cell culture suggest that targeting IL-17 signaling could help treat cancer. In murine xenograft cancer models, animals with IL-17 knockout had less melanoma and bladder carcinoma growth and metastases than wild-type mice. In cultured human melanoma and bladder carcinoma cells, IL-17 activated STAT3 through IL-6, which promoted tumor cell growth. In mice with melanoma tumors, an anti-IL-6 antibody inhibited tumor growth compared with control antibody. Ongoing studies are investigating how gastrointestinal T helper cell type 17 and Stat3 immune signaling can lead to colon cancer in mice. Novartis AG's anti-IL-17 mAb AIN457 is in Phase II testing to treat acute uveitis, Crohn's disease and psoriatic arthritis, and is in Phase I/II testing to treat ankylosing spondylitis and ozone-induced airway neutrophilia. Johnson & Johnson's CNTO 328, a chimeric anti-IL-6 mAb, is in Phase II testing to treat relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (MM). SciBX 2(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1069 Published online July 16, 2009	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Wang, L. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online June 29, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20090207 Contact: Hua Yu, Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope Medical Center, Duarte, Calif. e-mail: hyu@coh.org Contact: Defu Zeng, same affiliation as above e-mail: dzeng@coh.org Contact: Drew M. Pardoll, Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: dmpardol@jhmi.edu