This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	Transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGFB1; TGFB1); TGFB2 (TGFB2)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting TGFβ signaling could help treat chronic viral infections. In mice infected with lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV), transgenic expression of T cells with reduced TGFβ signaling led to decreased viral replication and quicker clearance of virus compared with those seen in wild-type controls. The transgenic mice also had more virus-specific CD8⁺ T cells than wild-type controls. Next steps include evaluating the use of TGFβ inhibitors in animal models of viral infection.</p> <p>Trabedersen, an antisense molecule that targets TGFβ2 mRNA from Antisense Pharma GmbH, is in Phase III for brain cancer and Phase I/II for other forms of cancer.</p> <p>At least three other companies have inhibitors of TGFβ signaling in Phase II or earlier for cancer and various autoimmune, dermatological and ophthalmic conditions.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1152 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	Patent application filed for treatment of viral infections; available for licensing from the University of California, San Diego Technology Transfer Office	<p>Tinoco, R. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online July 16, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2009.06.015</p> <p>Contact: Elina I. Zuniga, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: eizuniga@ucsd.edu</p>