This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Celiac disease	IL-2 receptor β-chain (IL-2RB; CD122)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting IL-2RB, a component of the IL-15 receptor complex, could help treat celiac disease. In mice, transgenic expression of human IL-15 in enterocytes caused atrophy of the villi of intestinal cells, inflammation of the upper small intestine and accumulation of proinflammatory CD8⁺ lymphocytes in the intestinal mucosa. Blocking Il-2rb with an antibody reversed the intestinal inflammation and proinflammatory lymphocytic cell profiles. Next steps include testing the anti-IL-2RB antibody in patients with refractory celiac disease.</p> <p>At least five companies have therapeutics for celiac disease in clinical and preclinical testing.</p> <p>SciBX 2(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1334 Published online Sept. 10, 2009</p>	Use of antibodies targeting the IL-2RB subunit patented; available for licensing	<p>Yokoyama, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 31, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0908834106 Contact: Liyanage P. Perera, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: pereral@mail.nih.gov Contact: Thomas A. Waldmann, same affiliation as above e-mail: tawald@helix.nih.gov Contact: Takachika Hiroi, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: thiroy@rinshoken.or.jp</p>