This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune; inflammation	MicroRNA-155 (miRNA-155); mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 7 interacting protein 2 (MAP3K7IP2; TAB2)	A study in cell culture suggests that modulating miRNA-155 signaling may be useful for decreasing autoimmune-associated inflammation. Human monocyte-derived dendritic cells treated with lipopolysaccharide, an immune response activator, showed a 50-fold increase in miRNA-155 expression compared with that seen in untreated cells. Additional <i>in vitro</i> experiments showed that miRNA-155 downregulated the expression of inflammatory cytokines by inhibiting TAB2 activity. Next steps include studying miRNA-155 expression in patients with autoimmune diseases and developing cell-specific anti- miRNA-155 agents. <i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.172 Published online Feb. 5, 2009	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Ceppi, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Jan. 26, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811073106 Contact: Philippe Pierre, University of the Mediterranean Aix-Marseille II, Marseille, France e-mail: pierre@ciml.univ-mrs.fr