This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Transplantation				
Graft-versus-host disease (GvHD)	CD83	<p>A study in mice suggests that depleting activated dendritic cells (DCs) may be useful for treating and preventing acute GvHD. In a mouse model of GvHD, RA83, an antibody targeting the DC activation marker CD83, resulted in survival rates ranging from 47% to 94% at 30 days post-transplant, whereas all mice receiving a control antibody died within 11 days ($p < 0.002$). RA83 did not deplete cytotoxic T effector cells, thereby preserving the immune response to viruses and malignant cells. Next steps include studying the mechanism of antibody-mediated DC depletion and creating human versions of the antibodies.</p> <p>Amotosalen, a plasma pathogen inactivation system using a psoralen S-59 light-activated compound from Cerus Corp., is marketed to treat GvHD.</p> <p>Thymoglobulin, a rabbit anti-thymocyte Ig from Genzyme Corp., is marketed for the same indication.</p> <p>Argos Therapeutics Inc. has a soluble CD83 protein in preclinical development to treat transplant rejection and autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.245 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Patent application filed covering use in all indications; available for licensing from The Mater Medical Research Institute	<p>Wilson, J. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 26, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20070723</p> <p>Contact: David J. Munster, The Mater Medical Research Institute, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia e-mail: dmunster@mmri.mater.org.au</p> <p>Contact: Derek N.J. Hart, same affiliation as above e-mail: dhart@mmri.mater.org.au</p>