This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Infectious	Ring finger protein 128 (RNF128; GRAIL)	<p>Mouse and <i>ex vivo</i> studies suggest that targeting GRAIL could help treat schistosomiasis and other chronic infections associated with T helper type 2 (Th2) cell hyporesponsiveness. In <i>Schistosoma mansoni</i>-infected mice, the percentage of proliferating Th2 cells increased early in infection but then decreased despite persistent infection. In Th2 cells from the mice, gene expression analysis showed that the E3 ubiquitin ligase GRAIL was upregulated during the hyporesponsive state, and small interfering RNA against GRAIL prevented development of Th2 hyporesponsiveness induced by repeated <i>Schistosoma</i> antigen stimulation. Next steps could include additional studies to determine the relationship between GRAIL expression and cytokine production in Th2 hypoproliferation.</p> <p>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.407 Published online March 12, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Taylor, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online March 2, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI36534 Contact: Edward J. Pearce, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: ejpearce@mail.med.upenn.edu</p>