This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune	IL-7	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing IL-7 in the liver could be useful for treating autoimmune diseases. Hepatic injection of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) increased serum levels of IL-7, which in turn boosted circulating CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ cells compared with what was seen in untreated controls. Small hairpin RNA knockdown of IL-7 resulted in lower levels of CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ following LPS stimulation than those seen in mock-treated controls. Next steps include characterizing IL-7-based inflammatory responses in other organs such as the spleen and developing small molecule inhibitors of IL-7.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.435 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Sawa, Y. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online March 12, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2009.01.007</p> <p>Contact: Masaaki Murakami, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan e-mail: murakami@molonc.med.osaka-u.ac.jp</p>