This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	Phospholipase C γ_2 (phosphatidylinositol-specific) (PLCG ₂)	Studies in animal cells and in mice suggest that targeting PLCG ₂ could treat RA. In a mouse model of autoimmune arthritis, mice with PLCG ₂ -deficient bone marrow showed no disease and no loss of paw-gripping ability. Ongoing work includes studying other PLCG ₂ -deficient mouse models and screening libraries for small molecule PLCG ₂ inhibitors. At least 16 companies have therapies that are marketed or approved to treat RA. At least 20 companies have therapies in Phase III testing to treat RA. At least 30 companies have therapies in preclinical to early-stage clinical testing to treat RA.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Jakus, Z. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online March 9, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20081859 Contact: Attila Mócsai, Semmelweis University School of Medicine, Budapest, Hungary e-mail: mocsai@eok.sote.hu
<i>SciBX</i> 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.477 Published online March 26, 2009				