This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	Interferon- α (IFN- α)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that an IFN-α kinoid vaccine could be useful for treating or preventing SLE. SLE flares are associated with high levels of IFN-α. In the IFN-α-triggered mouse model of lupus, IFN-α kinoid vaccination delayed or prevented the development of lupus manifestations compared with what was seen in mice that received saline immunization. Neovacs S.A. is developing the IFN-α kinoid vaccine and plans to begin a Phase I/II trial in SLE patients by year end.</p> <p>MEDI-545, a human mAb targeting IFN-α from Medarex Inc. and AstraZeneca plc's MedImmune Inc. unit, is in Phase IIa testing to treat SLE.</p> <p>SciBX 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.478 Published online March 26, 2009</p>	Patented by Neovacs; unlicensed	<p>Zagury, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900615106</p> <p>Contact: Robert C. Gallo, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: rgallo@ihv.umaryland.edu</p> <p>Contact: Daniel Zagury, Neovacs S.A., Paris, France e-mail: dzagury@neovacs.com</p>