This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Prostaglandin E ₂ (PGE ₂) receptor EP4 subtype (prostanoid EP4 receptor) (PTGER4)	<p>A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that antagonizing PTGER4 could be useful for treating MS. In cell culture, murine helper T cell precursors treated with PGE₂ developed into autoimmune disease-associated T_H17 cells. In mice, a PTGER4 antagonist prevented experimental autoimmune encephalitis (EAE), an MS-like condition, compared with mock treatment. Next steps include clinical testing of PTGER4 inhibitors for autoimmune disease.</p> <p>ONO-AE3-208, a PTGER4 antagonist from Ono Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., is in preclinical development for undisclosed indications.</p> <p>SciBX 2(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.966 Published online June 18, 2009</p>	Compounds used in the study patented by Ono Pharmaceutical; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Yao, C. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online May 24, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1968</p> <p>Contact: Shuh Narumiya, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: snaru@mfour.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp</p>