This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Lupus	Platelets	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting platelet activation could help treat systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). In a mouse model of lupus, treatment with a platelet-depleting rat mAb reduced the severity of disease symptoms compared with those seen upon control mAb treatment. Also in mice, the platelet-depleting drug Plavix clopidogrel decreased disease symptoms compared with those in untreated controls. Next steps include designing a clinical trial to evaluate the effects of blocking platelet activation in patients with SLE. Plavix clopidogrel, an adenosine diphosphate receptor (P2Y₁₂) antagonist from sanofi-aventis Group and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., is marketed for multiple cardiovascular indications.</p> <p>SciBX 3(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1085 Published online Sept. 16, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Duffau, P. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Sept. 1, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001001 Contact: Patrick Blanco, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Bordeaux, France e-mail: patrick.blanco@chu-bordeaux.fr Contact: Pierre Duffau, University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France e-mail: pierre.duffau@hotmail.fr</p>