This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Transplantation				
Graft-versus-host disease (GvHD)	CD28; CD40	A study in primates suggests that blocking CD28 and CD40 could help treat GvHD. In a rhesus monkey model of GvHD, blockade of CD28 and CD40 plus treatment with Rapamune resulted in 100% survival at 30 days compared with 0% survival in an untreated group ($p=0.01$). In the same model, median survival was 62 days compared with 11.6 for untreated controls ($p<0.01$). Next steps include distinguishing the mechanistic contributions of each component of the combination therapy to prevent GvHD. Rapamune rapamycin (sirolimus), a mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1) inhibitor from Pfizer Inc., is marketed to prevent organ rejection in renal transplantation. At least five companies have compounds targeting CD40 or CD28 in Phase I or earlier for autoimmune or transplant-associated diseases. SciBX 3(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1130 Published online Sept. 23, 2010	Patent and licensing enquiries should be directed to the Emory University Office of Technology Transfer	Miller, W.P. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Sept. 10, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2010-06-289272 Contact: Leslie S. Kean, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: medlk@emory.edu