This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
HIV/AIDS	BLyS (BAFF)	<p>A study in patients suggests that decreasing BLyS levels could help delay progression of HIV-related B cell disease. In patients with rapidly progressing HIV-related B cell disease, BLyS levels on dendritic cells and monocytic precursor cells were greater than those on control cells from uninfected patients. Next steps include evaluating the effect of BLyS inhibitors on B cell disease progression in patients with HIV.</p> <p>Benlysta belimumab, a human anti-BLyS mAb from Human Genome Sciences Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline plc, is under review for lupus.</p> <p>At least five other companies have BLyS-targeting compounds in Phase III or earlier to treat autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 3(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1186 Published online Oct. 7, 2010</p>	Patent status undisclosed; unavailable for licensing	<p>Fontaine, J. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Sept. 24, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2010-08-301887</p> <p>Contact: Michel Roger, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada</p> <p>e-mail: michel.roger@ssss.gouv.qc.ca</p>