This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune; multiple sclerosis (MS)	Protein inhibitor of activated STAT 1 (PIAS1)	Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting PIAS1 signaling could help treat MS and other autoimmune diseases. In mice, <i>Pias1</i> deficiency led to greater levels of anti-inflammatory Cd4 ⁺ and forkhead box P3 ⁺ (Foxp3 ⁺) T _{reg} cells than those in wild-type controls. In a mouse model of experimental autoimmune encephalitis, <i>Pias1</i> deficiency led to a weaker inflammatory response than that in control mice. Next steps include evaluating the effects of compounds that modulate the PIAS1 ligase signaling pathway in T _{reg} cell-associated indications.	Patent application filed covering use of PIAS1 proteins; available for licensing from the University of California, Los Angeles Office of Intellectual Property	Liu, B. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online Oct. 22, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1193787 Contact: Bin Liu, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: bliu@ucla.edu Contact: Ke Shuai, same affiliation as above e-mail: kshuai@mednet.ucla.edu
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