This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	C-type lectin domain 5 member A (CLEC5A; MDL1)	Studies in tissue samples and in mice suggest that inhibiting MDL1 could help treat RA. On myeloid cells from the joint tissue of human RA patients and in mouse models of RA, MDL1 expression was higher than that in healthy controls. Treatment of two RA mouse models with an MDL1-inhibiting fusion protein reduced inflammation, cartilage damage and bone erosion compared with no treatment. Future studies could include <i>in vivo</i> testing of the safety of the fusion protein MDL1 inhibitor.	Patented by Merck & Co. Inc.; licensing status unavailable	Joyce-Shaikh, B. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online March 8, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20090516 Contact: Daniel J. Cua, Merck Pharmaceuticals, Palo Alto, Calif. e-mail: daniel.cua@spcorp.com
<i>SciBX</i> 3(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.332 Published online March 18, 2010				