This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Scleroderma	Transforming growth factor- β (TGFB; TGF β)	<p>Studies in patient samples suggest that antagonizing TGFB could help treat systemic scleroderma and a related condition called stiff skin syndrome. In four families with stiff skin syndrome, <i>fibrillin 1</i> (<i>FBN1</i>) mutations correlated with disease and individuals with <i>FBN1</i> mutations had higher levels of TGFB activity than healthy controls. Next steps include making transgenic mice that carry the disease-linked <i>FBN1</i> mutations and testing the effect of antagonizing TGFB activity in cell culture and in mouse models of scleroderma.</p> <p>Novartis AG and arGentis Pharmaceuticals LLC each have compounds in Phase II testing for scleroderma. Partners Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and AstraZeneca plc have a compound in Phase I for the indication.</p> <p>SciBX 3(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.366 Published online March 25, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Loeys, B.L. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 17, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000488</p> <p>Contact: H. Dietz, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: hdietz@jhmi.edu</p>