This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Bacterial infection	Lymphotoxin- β receptor (LTBR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that upregulating LTBR signaling in epithelial cells could help treat mucosal bacterial infection. In mice infected with <i>Citrobacter rodentium</i>, administration of Ltbr-deficient bone marrow increased bacterial titers compared with administration of normal bone marrow. In infected <i>Ltbr</i> knockout mice, bacterial titers were also higher than those in wild-type mice. In transgenic mice, animals with epithelial cell-specific deletion of <i>Ltbr</i> had a reduced ability to clear infection, whereas mice with neutrophil-specific deletion were able to clear the bacteria. Next steps could include identifying an LTBR activator to test the therapeutic potential of upregulating LTBR in animal models of infectious disease.</p> <p>Biogen Idec Inc. did not disclose how or if they will make use of the findings.</p> <p>SciBX 3(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.435 Published online April 8, 2010</p>	Biogen Idec owns patents for increasing or decreasing LTBR signaling; licensing status unavailable	<p>Wang, Y. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online March 11, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2010.02.011</p> <p>Contact: Alexei V. Tumanov, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: atumanov@bsd.uchicago.edu</p> <p>Contact: Yang-Xin Fu, same affiliation as above e-mail: yfu@uchicago.edu</p>