This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Celiac disease (CD)	IL-15; B cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2); BCL-XL; janus kinase-3 (JAK-3); signal transducer and activator of transcription 5 (STAT5)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that neutralizing IL-15 or its downstream effectors could help treat inflammation and lymphomagenesis associated with CD. In intraepithelial lymphocytes from patients with type II refractory CD, levels of IL-15 and its downstream effectors—BCL2, BCL-XL, JAK-3 and STAT5—were higher than those in lymphocytes from healthy controls. In mice engineered to overexpress IL-15 in the gut epithelium, an anti-IL-15 antibody prevented accumulation of pathogenic intraepithelial lymphocytes compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include developing a therapeutic to inhibit IL-15. AMG714, a human mAb against IL-15 from Genmab A/S and Amgen Inc., is in Phase II testing to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA).	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Malamut, G. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online May 3, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI41344 Contact: Nadine Cerf-Bensussan, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), University Rene Descartes, Paris, France e-mail: nadine.cerfbensussan@inserm.fr Contact: Bertrand Meresse, same affiliation as above e-mail: bertrand.meresse@inserm.fr
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