This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Various	B-cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2; BCL2)	<p>A study in mice suggests that the BCL-2 antagonist ABT-737 could be useful for treating autoimmune diseases. Mice treated with ABT-737, a research reagent from Abbott Laboratories, had lower T cell activity than mice given vehicle control. In the same mice, ABT-737 reduced the B cell response to an antigen and decreased pancreatic islet graft rejection compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include testing ABT-737 or other BCL-2 antagonists in mouse models of autoimmune and inflammatory disease.</p> <p>Abbott and Roche's Genentech Inc. unit are developing ABT-263, a BCL-2 antagonist that is in Phase I/II testing for chronic lymphocytic leukemia and small cell lung cancer.</p> <p>Five other companies have BCL-2 antagonists in various stages of development to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.758 Published online June 24, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Carrington, E.M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 1, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1005256107</p> <p>Contact: David M. Tarlinton, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Parkville, Victoria, Australia e-mail: tarlinton@wehi.edu.au</p> <p>Contact: Andrew M. Lew, same affiliation as above e-mail: lew@wehi.edu.au</p>