This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Atherosclerosis	CD20; IL-17 (IL-17A)	<p>A study in mice suggests that B cell depletion with CD20-targeting mAbs could help prevent atherosclerosis. In two mouse models of atherosclerosis, depletion of mature B cells with a CD20-targeting mAb reduced atherosclerotic lesion development compared with that seen using a control mAb. Next steps include studying how B cells affect the immune response in atherosclerosis and developing prospective trials to evaluate the effect of B cell depletion therapies on risk of cardiovascular disease in patients with lupus. Rituxan rituximab, a chimeric mAb against CD20 from Biogen Idec Inc. and Roche's Genentech Inc. unit, is approved to treat non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and follicular lymphoma.</p> <p>At least seven other companies have CD20-targeting mAbs in Phase III or earlier to treat autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 3(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.894 Published online July 29, 2010</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use of a B cell-depleting agent to treat or prevent cardiovascular diseases; available for licensing from the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) Office of Technology Transfer</p>	<p>Ait-Oufella, H. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online July 5, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20100155 Contact: Ziad Mallat, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: ziad.mallat@inserm.fr or zm255@medschl.cam.ac.uk</p>