This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hepatic disease				
Hepatic disease	IL-15; bone marrow stromal cell antigen 2 (BST2; CD317)	<p>Mouse and patient sample studies suggest blocking IL-15 or depleting dendritic cells could help treat biliary atresia, a liver disease caused by idiopathic inflammation of bile ducts. Liver samples from infants with biliary atresia showed higher plasmacytoid dendritic cell (pDC) numbers than samples from healthy controls. In a neonatal mouse model of biliary atresia, antibody-mediated depletion of pDCs or the pDC-produced cytokine IL-15 reduced jaundice and increased survival compared with IgG controls. Next steps include additional studies of IL-15 and the anti-pDC antibody in mice.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1181 Published online Oct. 27, 2011</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Saxena, V. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Sept. 28, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002069 Contact: Jorge A. Bezerra, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio e-mail: jorge.bezerra@cchmc.org</p>