This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Integrin α_4 (CD11A); integrin β_2 (LFA-1; MAC-1; CD18)	<p>Studies in mice suggest anti-CD11A and anti-CD18 mAbs could help treat MS. Mice with T cells lacking integrin α_4 (Vla-4; Cd49d) had more severe experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) than wild-type controls. In those mice, an anti-Cd11a mAb prevented severe EAE compared with a control antibody. Next steps include testing the involvement of CD11A and CD18, the other component of the integrin dimer, in nonresponders to Tysabri natalizumab.</p> <p>Tysabri, a humanized mAb against integrin α_4, is marketed by Elan Corp. plc and Biogen Idec Inc. to treat MS.</p> <p>SciBX 4(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1200 Published online Nov. 3, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Rothhammer, V. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 24, 2011; doi:10.1084/jem.20110434</p> <p>Contact: Thomas Korn, Technical University Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: korn@lrz.tum.de</p>