This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	Progranulin (PGRN); tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α); tumor necrosis factor receptor 1 (TNFRSF1A; TNFR1; CD120a); TNFR2	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a peptide derived from PGRN that could help treat RA.</p> <p><i>In vitro</i>, PGRN bound TNFR1 and TNFR2 and blocked proinflammatory TNF-α signaling compared with no treatment. In two mouse models of RA, recombinant PGRN or Atsttrin (Antagonist of TNF/TNFR Signaling via Targeting to TNF Receptors), a peptide composed of three PGRN fragments, decreased disease severity and delayed onset compared with vehicle control. Next steps include preclinical studies in undisclosed animal models. At least 12 companies have therapies blocking TNF-α signaling in development stages from preclinical to marketed for RA.</p> <p>SciBX 4(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.332 Published online March 24, 2011</p>	Patent applications filed covering atsttrin and analogs; licensed to ATreaon; available for licensing for some indications or co-development arrangements	<p>Tang, W. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online March 10, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1199214</p> <p>Contact: Chuan-ju Liu, New York University School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: chuanju.liu@med.nyu.edu</p>