This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Scleroderma	Serotonin (5-HT _{2B}) receptor	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest that antagonizing the 5-HT_{2B} receptor could help treat scleroderma. In cell culture, a small molecule inhibitor of 5-HT_{2B} blocked serotonin-mediated dermal fibroblast activation. In a mouse model of dermal fibrosis, 5-HT_{2B} receptor antagonists decreased disease pathology compared with no treatment. Next steps include testing the effect of blocking 5-HT_{2B} receptors in animal models of other fibrotic diseases.</p> <p>Terguride, a 5-HT_{2A} and 5-HT_{2B} antagonist from Ergonex Pharma GmbH and Pfizer Inc., is in Phase II testing for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH).</p> <p>Other 5-HT_{2B} antagonists in the clinic include Forest Laboratories Inc.'s PRX08066, which is in Phase II trials for PAH, and Biofrontera AG's BF-1, which has completed Phase 0 testing for migraine.</p> <p>SciBX 4(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.534 Published online May 12, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Dees, C. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online April 25, 2011; doi:10.1084/jem.20101629</p> <p>Contact: Jörg H.W. Distler, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany e-mail: joerg.distler@uk-erlangen.de</p>