This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Lupus	Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) autoantibodies	An <i>in vitro</i> and mouse study identified a small molecule peptidomimetic that blocked autoantibodies and could help treat SLE. <i>In vitro</i> , the small molecule blocked proinflammatory autoantibody-antigen binding with low micromolar potency. In mice, the small molecule decreased inflammation-associated neurotoxicity compared with vehicle. Next steps include further optimization of the compound to improve potency and pharmacokinetics. <i>SciBX</i> 4(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.679 Published online June 16, 2011	Patented; available for licensing	Bloom, O. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 6, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1103555108 Contact: Yousef Al-Abed, The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, Manhasset, N.Y. e-mail: yalabed@nshs.edu Contact: Betty Diamond, same affiliation as above e-mail: bdiamond@nshs.edu