This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	Carboxypeptidase B2 (CPB2; TAFI); complement 5a (C5a)	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest the enzyme CPB2 could help treat RA. In mouse models of RA, Cpb2 deficiency resulted in less cleavage of proinflammatory C5a and greater inflammatory cell infiltration and damage to joints than wild-type Cpb2 expression. Genotyping of RA patients identified a <i>CPB2</i> SNP that was associated with less severe disease, due to the mutant CPB2's longer half-life, and increased C5a cleavage compared with the wild-type CPB2. Ongoing work includes testing exogenous CPB2 in mouse models of RA.</p> <p>SciBX 4(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.874 Published online Aug. 11, 2011</p>	Patented by Stanford University; available for licensing	<p>Song, J.J. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Aug. 1, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI46387</p> <p>Contact: William H. Robinson, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: wrobins@stanford.edu</p>