This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	Not applicable	<p>Patient sample and rat studies suggest the anticonvulsant Topamax topiramate could help treat IBD. Parallel analysis of gene expression profiles of patient samples and gene expression signatures of 164 drugs identified Topamax as a potential lead for IBD. In a rat model of IBD, Topamax decreased the incidence of diarrhea and IBD-related colitis compared with saline. Next steps include testing Topamax in additional animal models of IBD.</p> <p>NuMedii Inc., a bioinformatics company cofounded by Atul Butte, uses molecular data to identify new indications for existing drugs. Johnson & Johnson's Topamax, a sulfamate-substituted monosaccharide that acts as a sodium channel blocker, γ-aminobutyric acid receptor (GABAR) agonist and AMPAR antagonist, is marketed to treat epilepsy, seizures and migraines.</p> <p>SciBX 4(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.983 Published online Sept. 8, 2011</p>	Patent application filed covering topiramate to treat IBD; available for licensing from NuMedii	<p>Dudley, J.T. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 17, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002648</p> <p>Contact: Atul J. Butte, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: abutte@stanford.edu</p>