This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Alzheimer's disease (AD)	IL-12; IL-23	<p>Patient sample and mouse studies suggest inhibiting IL-12 and IL-23 signaling could help treat AD. In a transgenic mouse model of AD, microglia production of p40, a subunit common to IL-12 and IL-23, was greater than that in healthy controls. In the same mouse model, intracerebroventricular delivery of an anti-p40 antibody decreased cognitive deficits and β-amyloid ($A\beta$) burden compared with delivery of an isotype control. In cerebrospinal fluid samples from patients with AD, p40 levels were higher than those in samples from healthy controls. Next steps include studying the downstream effects and mechanisms related to targeting p40.</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Johnson & Johnson market Stelara ustekinumab, a human mAb that inhibits IL-12 and IL-23, to treat psoriasis.</p> <p>Abbott Laboratories' briakinumab, a human mAb against IL-12 and IL-23, is under regulatory review for the same indication.</p> <p>At least four other companies have compounds targeting both IL-12 and IL-23 in Phase II testing or earlier to treat various autoimmune or inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 5(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1263 Published online Dec. 13, 2012</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from Unitectra via the University of Zurich</p>	<p>Vom Berg, J. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 25, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2965</p> <p>Contact: Frank L. Heppner, Charité–University Hospital Berlin, Berlin, Germany e-mail: frank.heppner@charite.de</p> <p>Contact: Burkhard Becher, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: becher@immunology.uzh.ch</p>