This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); colitis	CXC chemokine receptor 6 (CXCR6); chemokine CXC motif ligand 16 (CXCL16)	<p>Studies in mice suggest antagonizing CXCR6 or its ligand, CXCL16, could help treat IBD and ulcerative colitis. Mice lacking enteric bacteria had higher Cxcl16 levels in the serum and greater accumulation of proinflammatory invariant NK T (iNKT) cells in the lung and colon than mice with enteric bacteria. In the bacteria-free mice, an antibody against CXCL16 lowered iNKT cell levels in the lung and colon compared with nonspecific antibody control. Next steps include identification of bacterial factors that suppress iNKT cell accumulation and inflammation in the lung and colon.</p> <p>Vedanta Biosciences Inc. has a formulation of enteric bacteria in preclinical development to restore normal immune functioning in IBD. Enterome Bioscience is developing diagnostic technology to detect abnormalities in enteric bacteria for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and IBD.</p> <p>SciBX 5(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.355 Published online April 5, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Olszak, T. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online March 22, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1219328 Contact: Richard S. Blumberg, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rblumberg@partners.org Contact: Dennis L. Kasper, same affiliation as above e-mail: dennis_kasper@hms.harvard.edu</p>