This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune disease	Arachidonate 15-lipoxygenase (ALOX15; 15-LOX)	<p>Mouse and cell culture studies suggest increasing 15-LOX activity could help prevent autoimmune diseases. In cultured mouse cells, 15-lox promoted the uptake of apoptotic cells by macrophages and reduced the uptake of apoptotic cells by proinflammatory monocytes. In a mouse model of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), mice lacking 15-lox had greater autoantibody production and glomerulonephritis than 15-lox-expressing controls. Next steps include developing small molecules that could block the uptake of apoptotic cells into proinflammatory monocytes.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 5(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.435 Published online April 26, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	<p>Uderhardt, S. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online April 12, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2012.03.010 Contact: Gerhard Krönke, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany e-mail: gerhard.kroenke@uk-erlangen.de</p>