This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Transplantation				
Graft-versus-host disease (GvHD)	Thrombomodulin (THBD; CD141)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest vitamin D-treated CD141 ⁺ dendritic cells (DCs) could induce immune tolerance and help treat GvHD. In cell culture, CD141 ⁺ dermal DCs induced immunosuppressive IL-10 expression and T _{reg} cells, whereas CD141 ⁻ dermal DCs did not. In a mouse model of GvHD using transplantation of human peripheral blood mononuclear cells, vitamin D-induced CD141 ⁺ blood DCs decreased disease symptoms and increased mouse survival compared with untreated CD141 ⁺ blood DCs. Next steps could include testing vitamin D-induced CD141 ⁺ blood DCs in additional disease models of tolerance.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Chu, C.-C. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online April 25, 2012; doi:10.1084/jem.20112583 Contact: Frank O. Nestle, King's College London and National Institutes for Health Research Biomedical Research Centre, London, U.K. e-mail: frank.nestle@kcl.ac.uk
<i>SciBX</i> 5(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.580 Published online May 31, 2012				