This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Uveitis	IL-12; IL-27	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest a heterodimeric cytokine could help treat uveitis. In mouse T cell proliferation and differentiation assays, a recombinant engineered cytokine composed of the α-subunit of mouse IL-27 and the β-subunit of mouse IL-12 decreased proliferation and differentiation of T helper type 1 (Th1) and T helper type 17 (Th17) cells compared with vehicle. In a mouse model of uveitis, the engineered cytokine decreased disease markers including inflammation and increased anti-inflammatory regulatory T cell levels compared with no treatment. Next steps could include testing the engineered cytokine in mouse models of other inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 5(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.986 Published online Sept. 20, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Wang, R.-X. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 30, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.390625 Contact: Charles E. Egwuagu, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: egwuaguc@nei.nih.gov</p>