This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Pemphigus vulgaris (PV)	Desmoglein 1 (DSG1); DSG3	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a DSG-binding peptide that could help treat PV. In a mouse model of a skin disease caused by autoantibodies against DSG1 and DSG3, injection or topical administration of a tandem peptide that bound DSG decreased blistering compared with no peptide treatment. In skin lesions from the mouse model, the DSG-binding peptide prevented autoantibody-induced p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38 MAPK; MAPK14) activation and resulting blistering. Next steps could include optimizing the peptide for topical delivery.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Spindler, V. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Jan. 9, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI60139 Contact: Jens Waschke, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: jens.waschke@med.uni-muenchen.de
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