This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	IL-4 (BSF1); fibronectin extra domain A (FnEDA)	<p>Mouse studies suggest an antibody-IL-4 fusion protein could help treat RA. In mouse models of severe arthritis, a fusion of a human anti-FnEDA antibody (F8) and mouse IL-4 (F8-IL4) concentrated at inflammatory sites in the paws and decreased paw inflammation compared with a fusion of an inactive control antibody and mouse IL-4. Also in the arthritis models, F8-IL4 and dexamethasone decreased paw levels of proinflammatory cytokines and inflammation compared with either agent alone. Philogen S.p.A. is planning a Phase I trial of human F8-IL4 to treat RA and endometriosis in 2015.</p> <p>Neovacs S.A. has IL-4-Kinoid, an immunotherapy against IL-4, in preclinical testing to treat allergy.</p> <p>SciBX 7(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1034 Published online Sept. 11, 2014</p>	Patented by Philogen; available for licensing	<p>Hemmerle, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 4, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1402783111</p> <p>Contact: Dario Neri, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: dario.neri@pharma.ethz.ch</p>