This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Psoriasis	IL-23	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest an alphabody scaffold protein with high affinity for IL-23 could help treat psoriasis. <i>In vitro</i>, affinity-matured hits from a library screen of alphabodies bound IL-23 with subnanomolar affinity. In a mouse model of psoriasis, the lead anti-IL-23 alphabody decreased human IL-23-induced skin inflammation compared with saline. Next steps include clinical development of the lead anti-IL-23 alphabody in autoimmune diseases and feasibility testing of oral delivery. Complix N.V.'s anti-IL-23 alphabody clinical candidate is in preclinical development.</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Johnson & Johnson market the anti-IL-23 antibody Stelara ustekinumab to treat psoriasis. At least 15 companies have anti-IL-23 therapies in Phase III or earlier testing to treat various autoimmune indications, including psoriasis.</p> <p>SciBX 7(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1341 Published online Dec. 4, 2014</p>	Patents issued and pending; available for partnering	<p>Desmet, J. <i>et al. Nat. Commun.</i>; published online Oct. 30, 2014; doi:10.1038/ncomms6237 Contact: Savvas N. Savvides, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium e-mail: savvas.savvides@ugent.be Contact: Johan Desmet, Complix N.V., Ghent, Belgium e-mail: johan.desmet@complix.com</p>