This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune disease	Long noncoding RNA (lncRNA)	<p>Cell-based studies suggest stimulating expression of a lncRNA found in dendritic cells (DCs) could help treat autoimmune diseases. In differentiating human DCs, shRNA targeting the DC-specific lncRNA encoded by the <i>WDM1</i>-like pseudogene decreased antigen uptake and allogeneic CD4⁺ T cell proliferation compared with nontargeting shRNA. Biochemical analysis showed that the lncRNA specifically associated with and promoted the activity of signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3), a key regulator of DC function. Next steps include determining whether the lncRNA levels are related to the outcome of immunological disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 7(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.548 Published online May 15, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status unavailable	<p>Wang, P. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online April 18, 2014; doi:10.1126/science.1251456 Contact: Xuetao Cao, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China e-mail: caoxt@immunol.org</p>