This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infection	IL-6	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest inhibiting IL-6 could help treat Ross River virus (RRV)-induced bone loss. In cultured human osteoblasts, RRV infection increased osteoclastogenesis and the production of proinflammatory factors, including IL-6, compared with saline. In mice, RRV infection led to viral replication within the bone and bone loss, but an IL-6-neutralizing antibody decreased both bone loss and viral titers in joints compared with a control antibody. Next steps include testing anti-IL-6 drugs in the model.</p> <p>Johnson & Johnson's anti-IL-6 antibody Sylvant siltuximab is approved to treat multicentric Castleman's disease (MCD).</p> <p>At least 11 other companies have IL-6 antibodies in Phase II or earlier testing for indications including cancer and autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 7(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.562 Published online May 15, 2014</p>	Patent status not applicable; unavailable for licensing	<p>Chen, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 14, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1318859111</p> <p>Contact: Suresh Mahalingam, Griffith University, Southport, Queensland, Australia e-mail: s.mahalingam@griffith.edu.au</p>