This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Allergy	Spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting SYK could help prevent food allergy. In a mouse model of peanut allergy, mice exposed to subanaphylactic doses of peanut butter had increased IgE levels, mast cell activity and peanut-specific T helper 2 (Th2) cell responses and decreased peanut-specific, antiallergic T_{reg} cell responses compared with unexposed mice. In the model, antibody-mediated neutralization of IgE or pharmacological inhibition of Syk, which functions downstream of IgE receptors in mast cells, reversed allergic sensitivity, decreased Th2 cell and increased T_{reg} cell responses compared with vehicle or no treatment. Next steps include further evaluating the effects of SYK inhibition and using the model to further investigate allergen uptake and antigen-presenting cell functions in the gut and associated lymphoid tissues.</p> <p>SciBX 7(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.927 Published online Aug. 14, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Burton, O.T. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online July 10, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2014.05.017 Contact: Hans C. Oettgen, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: hans.oettgen@childrens.harvard.edu</p>