

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain containing 1 (NOD1; CARD4); chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 6 (CCR6)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that NOD1 and CCR6 could be targeted to treat IBD or other diseases characterized by self-destructive intestinal immunity. In mice, bacteria living in the large intestine were found to communicate with the intestinal immune system using the Nod1 receptor and chemokine receptor Ccr6 to induce the formation of isolated lymphoid follicles. The intestines of <i>Nod1</i> and <i>Ccr6</i> knockout mice had lower levels of those follicles, less B cell maturation and more abnormal intestinal flora than wild-type controls. Abnormal B cell development in the intestines is thought to contribute to IBD. Next steps could include testing the effect of NOD1 and CCR6 agonists in animal models of IBD.</p> <p>SciBX 1(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1064 Published online Dec. 11, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Bouskra, D. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Nov. 5, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07450</p> <p>Contact: Gérard Eberl, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France e-mail: geberl@pasteur.fr</p>