

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Sjögren's syndrome	Retinoblastoma binding protein 4 (RBBP4; RBAP48)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting RBAP48 may help treat or prevent Sjögren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease of the salivary and lacrimal glands. In adult mice, selective overexpression of human RBAP48 in the salivary and lacrimal glands led to greater T cell infiltration and inflammatory lesions and less secretion of tears and saliva than that seen in wild-type mice. Next steps include evaluating the preventative effects of RBAP48-targeting small interfering RNA in preclinical models of Sjögren's syndrome.</p> <p>Epratuzumab, a humanized mAb targeting CD22 from Immunomedics Inc. and UCB Group, is in Phase II to treat Sjögren's syndrome.</p> <p>The generic small molecule pilocarpine is marketed to treat dry mouth associated with Sjögren's syndrome.</p> <p>SciBX 1(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1065 Published online Dec. 11, 2008</p>	Patented for use in Sjögren's syndrome; licensed to Kowa Company Ltd.	<p>Ishimaru, N. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 17, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20080174</p> <p>Contact: Yashio Hayashi, The University of Tokushima Graduate School, Tokushima, Japan e-mail: hayashi@dent.tokushima-u.ac.jp</p>