

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Other				
Hyper-IgE syndrome	Interleukin-17 (IL-17)	<p>An <i>ex vivo</i> study suggests that improving IL-17 production could be useful for treating hyper-IgE syndrome, an immunodeficiency syndrome characterized by extreme elevation of IgE, recurrent infections, pneumonia and abnormalities in connective tissue and bone. T cells isolated from patients with hyper-IgE syndrome failed to produce IL-17, and purified naïve T cells were unable to differentiate into IL-17-producing T helper type 17 (Th17) cells. Th17 cells play a role in clearing fungal and extracellular bacterial infections associated with hyper-IgE syndrome. The authors would not disclose their next steps.</p> <p>Virulizin, an immune modulator targeting IL-17E from Lorus Therapeutics Inc., is in Phase III testing to treat pancreatic cancer.</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Milner, J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online March 12, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature06764</p> <p>Contact: Daniel Douek, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: ddouek@nih.gov</p>