

### This week in therapeutics

| Indication                | Target/marker/pathway | Summary   | Licensing status | Publication and contact information   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|---|
| <b>Infectious disease</b> |                       |   |                  |   |
| Sepsis                    | CD44                  | <p>A study in mice suggests that blocking interactions between the neutrophil surface receptor CD44 and hyaluronan in the liver could help treat hepatic inflammation associated with sepsis. Hyaluronan bound CD44 receptors on neutrophils and caused their recruitment to the liver. In mice, anti-CD44 antibodies or CD44 knockout lowered the number of neutrophils in the liver compared with those in the liver of untreated and wild-type control mice. Next steps include testing the safety and efficacy of anti-CD44 therapy in septic animals.</p> <p>Arius Research Inc.'s anti-CD44 antibody, AR001, is in preclinical development to treat cancer.</p> | Not applicable   | <p>Kubes, P. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online March 24, 2008;<br/>doi:10.1084/jem.20071765</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Paul Kubes, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada<br/>e-mail:<br/><a href="mailto:pkubes@ucalgary.ca">pkubes@ucalgary.ca</a></p> |