

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	IL-6	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing IL-6 could help treat IBD. In a mouse model of CD8⁺ T cell-dependent severe autoimmune colitis, an anti-IL-6 receptor antibody lowered weight loss ($p < 0.05$) and thickening of the large intestine compared with what was seen in untreated controls. Further studies are necessary to determine the role of IL-6 in human colitis and other immune-mediated diseases.</p> <p>No fewer than four companies have compounds targeting IL-6 to treat autoimmune disease in development ranging from clinical to registration.</p>	Patent application filed in the U.S. for the colitis model; available for licensing	<p>Tajima, M. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online April 22, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20071133</p> <p>Contact: Takashi Nishimura, Institute for Genetic Medicine, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan e-mail: tak24@igm.hokudai.ac.jp</p>