

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Psoriasis	Corneodesmosin (CDSN)	A study in mice suggests that targeting CDSN could help treat psoriasis. CDSN-deficient mice showed aberrant detachment of the upper skin layers compared with those of wild-type mice, and they died several hours after birth. Immunodeficient mice engrafted with CDSN-deficient skin developed psoriasis-like graft phenotypes compared with those of mice engrafted with skin from wild-type mice. Next steps include performing gain-of-function genetic studies with functional analysis to elucidate the link between psoriasis and CDSN mutations.	Not patented; unavailable for licensing	Matsumoto, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online April 21, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0709345105 Contact: Mitsuru Matsumoto, University of Tokushima Graduate School, Tokushima, Japan e-mail: mitsuru@ier.tokushima-u.ac.jp