This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	*Single immunoglobulin and toll-interleukin 1 receptor (TIR) domain* (*Sigirr*; *Tir8*)	Studies in mice suggest that lack of *Sigirr* expression could result in susceptibility to SLE. *Sigirr* encodes an orphan receptor of the toll-like receptor (TLR) and IL-1 receptor family that inhibits TLR-mediated pathogen recognition in dendritic cells. In murine lymphoproliferative models of autoimmune disease, knockout of *Sigirr* increased disease severity compared with that seen in models that expressed *Sigirr*. Moreover, loss of *Sigirr* enhanced the activation and proliferation of B cells, including the production of autoantibodies against multiple lupus autoantigens. Researchers did not disclose their next steps.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Lech, M. *et al. J. Exp. Med.*; published online July 21, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20072646 **Contact:** Hans-Joachim Anders, University of Munich, Munich, Germany e-mail: hjanders@med.uni-muenchen.de