

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Atopic dermatitis	Thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP); TSLP receptor (TSLPR; CLRF2); IL-4; IL-13	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture suggest that antagonizing TSLP or TSLPR could help treat atopic dermatitis. In a mouse model of allergic skin inflammation, TSLPR knockout lowered the ability of T cells to produce proinflammatory cytokines IL-4 and IL-13. Intradermal injection of an anti-TSLP mAb in wild-type TSLPR mice blocked production of IL-4 and IL-13 and subsequent allergic inflammation. Additional studies are needed to determine whether other factors besides TSLP-TSLPR signaling also play a role in the production of IL-4 and IL-13.</p> <p>At least seven companies have approved or marketed treatments for atopic dermatitis. Altoderm cromolyn from Thornton & Ross Ltd. has completed a Phase III U.K. trial to treat atopic dermatitis. More than a dozen companies have compounds to treat atopic dermatitis in preclinical through Phase II development.</p>	Patent and licensing status unknown	<p>He, R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 19, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0801532105</p> <p>Contact: Raif Geha, Children's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: raif.geha@childrens.harvard.edu</p>