

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Dermatitis	Interleukin 12 receptor, β 2 (IL12RB2); toll-like receptor 2 (TLR2); TLR4	<p>Mouse studies suggest that antagonizing both IL12RB2 and TLR4 may help prevent allergic contact dermatitis (ACD). In mice given an epicutaneous skin allergen challenge, knocking out TLR4 and IL12RB2 lowered ear swelling compared with that seen in allergen-treated wild-type mice. TLR2 and TLR4 double-knockout mice exposed to the same allergen challenge had less ear swelling than TLR2 single-knockout and wild-type controls. Next steps include additional studies to understand the contribution of the IL-12-independent pathway to ACD.</p> <p>Ustekinumab, a human mAb inhibiting IL-12 and IL-23 from Medarex Inc. and Johnson & Johnson, is under FDA review for psoriasis.</p> <p>ABT-874, a human mAb against IL-12 and IL-23 from Abbott Laboratories, is in Phase III testing to treat psoriasis.</p> <p>Eisai Co. Ltd.'s Eritoran, a synthetic lipid A analog based on lipid A from the nonpathogenic bacterium <i>Rhodobacter sphaeroides</i>, targets TLR4 and is in Phase III testing to treat sepsis.</p> <p>At least six other companies have compounds targeting IL-12, TLR2 or TLR4 in Phase II or earlier for autoimmune or cancer indications.</p>	Not patented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Martin, S.F. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 25, 2008; doi:10.1084/jem.20070509</p> <p>Contact: Stefan F. Martin, Allergy Research Group, Department of Dermatology, University Medical Center Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany e-mail: stefan.martin@uniklinik-freiburg.de</p> <p>Contact: Marina A. Freudenberg, Max Planck Institute for Immunobiology, Freiburg, Germany e-mail: freudenberg@immunbio.mpg.de</p>