This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Crohn's disease (CD)	Not applicable	<p>Studies in mice and in patients suggest that molecules secreted by <i>Faecalibacterium prausnitzii</i> could help treat intestinal inflammation associated with CD. A study of ilea-associated microbiota from CD patients showed a lower proportion of <i>F. prausnitzii</i> in patients with recurrent disease compared with that seen in patients in remission. In mice with trinitrobenzene sulfuric acid-induced colitis, oral administration of the bacteria or its supernatant lowered inflammation compared with that seen in untreated controls. Further studies are necessary to identify the bacterial molecules responsible for the anti-inflammatory effects because the bacteria are difficult to cultivate for therapeutic use.</p> <p>SciBX 1(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.942 Published online Oct. 30, 2008</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Sokol, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 20, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0804812105</p> <p>Contact: Philippe Langella, National Institute for Agricultural Research, Jouy-en-Josas, France e-mail: philippe.langella@jouy.inra.fr</p> <p>Contact: Philippe Seksik, National Institute of Health and Medical Research, Pierre and Marie Curie University, Paris, France e-mail: philippe.seksik@sat.aphp.fr</p>