

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Islet cell transplant; type 1 diabetes	Serine protease	<p>A study in mice suggests that α_1-antitrypsin (AAT) may be useful for inducing immune tolerance to transplanted islet cells. In diabetic mice receiving allogeneic islet cell grafts, AAT increased graft survival, whereas all grafts in albumin-treated controls were rejected. In mice that received a second same-strain islet graft following the removal of the initial one, immune tolerance was maintained without AAT. Next steps include clinical trials of AAT to prevent transplant rejection.</p> <p>Baxter International Inc. markets Aralast hAAT to treat congenital AAT deficiency in patients with clinically evident emphysema.</p> <p>Otelixizumab, an mAb that binds to CD3 from Tolerx Inc., BTG plc and GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in Phase III testing to treat type 1 diabetes.</p> <p>DiaPep277, an immunomodulator peptide analog of a heat shock protein 60 epitope from Clal Biotechnology Industries Ltd. and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., is in Phase III testing for the same indication.</p> <p>At least six additional companies have immune modulators or cell therapy products in Phase II or earlier to treat type 1 diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 1(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.966 Published online Nov. 6, 2008</p>	<p>Patent owned covering inhibitors of serine protease activity and their use in treatment of graft rejection and promotion of graft survival; available for licensing from the University of Colorado Office of Technology Transfer</p>	<p>Lewis, E.C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 13, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0807627105</p> <p>Contact: Charles A. Dinarello, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Denver, Colo. e-mail: cdinarello@mac.com</p>