

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	Tenascin C (TNC; TN); toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that targeting TNC could help treat RA. In two mouse models of arthritis, <i>Tnc</i> knockout animals had less paw inflammation and fewer signs of destructive arthritis than wild-type controls. Studies in primary human macrophages and synovial fibroblasts showed that the fibrinogen-like globe domain of TNC stimulated production of proinflammatory cytokines. Ongoing studies are investigating how TNC activates downstream proinflammatory TLR4 signaling and determining how to inhibit that mechanism.</p> <p>Bradmer Pharmaceuticals Inc's Neuradiab, a radiolabeled anti-tenascin antibody, is in Phase III testing to treat glioblastoma multiforme (GBM).</p> <p>SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1033 Published online July 9, 2009</p>	Patented; licensing status unavailable	<p>Midwood, K. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online June 28, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1987</p> <p>Contact: Kim Midwood, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London, U.K. e-mail: k.midwood@imperial.ac.uk</p>