

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Osteoarthritis (OA)	Syndecan-4 (SDC4)	<p>Studies in cartilage samples and mice suggest that inhibiting SDC4 could help treat OA. Expression of SDC4 was higher in cartilage samples from the joints of OA patients and mouse models of OA than that in samples from healthy controls. In mice, <i>Sdc4</i> knockout animals or those given anti-Sdc4 antibodies had less cartilage degradation than wild-type mice. Ongoing work is seeking to elucidate SDC4's mechanism of action in OA and determine whether SDC4 inhibition could promote cartilage regeneration.</p> <p>SciBX 2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1234 Published online Aug. 20, 2009</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Echtermeyer, F. <i>Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 16, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1998</p> <p>Contact: Frank Echtermeyer, Medical University Hannover, Hannover, Germany e-mail: echtermeyer.frank@mh-hannover.de</p> <p>Contact: Thomas Pap, University Hospital Munster, Munster, Germany e-mail: Thomas.pap@uni-muenster.de</p>