

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE); angiotensin II type 1 receptor (AGTR1)	A study in human tissue and in mice suggests that ACE inhibitors could be useful for treating MS. In brain biopsies, inflamed tissue from MS patients had higher levels of AGTR1 than noninflamed tissue from healthy controls. In the experimental autoimmune encephalopathy (EAE) model of MS, an ACE inhibitor or an AGTR1 antagonist reduced inflammation and increased neurological function compared with mock treatment. Next steps include Phase II trials of ACE inhibitors to prevent MS.	Patent pending; available for licensing from Stanford University	Platten, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 19, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0903958106 Contact: Lawrence Steinman, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: steinman@stanford.edu Contact: Michael Platten, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: michael.platten@med.-uni-heidelberg.de
		SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1302 Published online Sept. 3, 2009		