This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Crohn's disease	Carcinoembryonic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule (CEACAM)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting bacterial adhesion to CEACAMs could help treat and prevent ileal Crohn's disease. Type 1 pili are important for bacterial adhesion and colonization of the intestine. In transgenic mice that expressed human CEACAMs on the intestinal epithelium, oral challenge with a modified Crohn's disease-causing bacterial strain that lacked type 1 pili resulted in lower disease severity than challenge with the unmodified strain, which had intact pili. Next steps include screening for molecules that target the binding of bacterial type 1 pili to CEACAM-expressing intestinal epithelial cells.</p> <p>SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1365 Published online Sept. 17, 2009</p>	Patented for use as a method to diagnose and treat Crohn's disease; available for licensing from the University Clermont 1 Research and Evaluation Office	<p>Carvalho, F.A. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Sept. 8, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20090741</p> <p>Contact: Arlette Darfeuille-Michaud, University Clermont 1, Clermont-Ferrand, France e-mail: arlette.darfeuille-michaud@u-clermont1.fr</p> <p>Contact: Nicolas Barnich, same affiliation as above e-mail: nicolas.barnich@u-clermont1.fr</p>