

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	Fas ligand (TNF superfamily, member 6) (FASL)	A study in mice suggests that antagonizing a secreted form of FASL could help treat SLE and other autoimmune diseases. FASL is a proapoptotic protein that exists in two forms—membrane bound or secreted. Mice that expressed only the secreted form of FASL developed more autoantibodies, had greater SLE-like kidney pathology and had lower survival than wild-type controls or mice with a nonfunctional mutant FASL. Next steps could include testing the effect of depleting secreted FASL in mouse models of autoimmune disease.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	O'Reilly, L.A. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Oct. 1, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08402 Contact: Andreas Strasser, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Parkville, Victoria, Australia e-mail: strasser@wehi.edu.au
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