This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	Peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor- δ (PPAR δ ; PPAR δ)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that PPARδ agonists could help treat SLE. Defects in apoptotic cell clearance make mice and humans susceptible to SLE. Cultured <i>Pparδ</i>-deficient murine macrophages had a lower ability to ingest apoptotic cells than wild-type control macrophages. In cultured human macrophages, a PPARδ agonist increased clearance of apoptotic cells compared with no treatment. PPARδ knockout mice developed an autoimmune syndrome resembling SLE. Next steps include testing PPARδ agonists in a mouse model of SLE.</p> <p>PPARδ agonists in Phase I testing include CER-002 from Cerenis Therapeutics S.A. for atherosclerosis and SAR351034 from sanofi-aventis Group for type 2 diabetes and dyslipidemia.</p> <p>SciBX 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1559 Published online Oct. 29, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Mukundan, L. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 12, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.2048</p> <p>Contact: Ajay Chawla, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: achawla@stanford.edu</p>