This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Lupus	IL-6; IL-6 receptor (CD126)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that anti-CD126 antibodies could help treat systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). In skin biopsies from SLE patients, IL-6 levels were higher than those in non-SLE controls. In mice, higher levels of secreted IL-6 led to an SLE phenotype whereas IL-6 knockout prevented the SLE phenotype. Next steps could include testing anti-CD126 antibodies in animal models of SLE.</p> <p>At least four companies have compounds targeting CD126 in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 2(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1592 Published online Nov. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Pflegerl, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 19, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0910371106</p> <p>Contact: Lukas Kenner, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Cancer Research, Vienna, Austria e-mail: lukas.kenner@lbcr.lbg.ac.at</p> <p>Contact: Tadamitsu Kishimoto, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan e-mail: kishimoto@fbs.osaka-u.ac.jp</p>