

## This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Autoimmune disease</b>				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	CD58	<p>Genetic association studies identified a variant at the CD58 locus that could protect against MS and lead to new targets. Genetic resequencing and mapping identified rs2300747<sup>G</sup> as an allele that is significantly associated with MS (<math>p=1.1 \times 10^{-6}</math>). In lymphoblastic and peripheral blood mononuclear cells from MS patients, the variant was associated with age-dependent increases in CD58 mRNA expression, and higher levels of CD58 on circulating mononuclear cells were associated with remission. CD58 expression increased T<sub>reg</sub> function in MS patients. The next steps include testing alefacept, which manipulates the CD58 pathway, in MS models.</p> <p>Astellas Pharma Inc.'s Amevive alefacept, a recombinant human CD58 fusion protein targeting CD2, is marketed to treat psoriasis.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.304</b>  <b>Published online Feb. 26, 2009</b></p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>De Jager, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 16, 2009;            doi:10.1073/pnas.0813310106  <b>Contact:</b> Philip L. De Jager, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.            e-mail:  <a href="mailto:pdejager@rics.bwh.harvard.edu">pdejager@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</a></p>