This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Viral infections	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 4 (TNFRSF4; OX40; CD134); OX40 ligand (OX40L; CD134L)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that agonizing OX40 may be useful for treating viral infections and preventing T cell-induced tissue damage. In lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV)-infected mice overexpressing invariant natural killer T cells, OX40 levels were higher and viral titers in the liver and pancreas were lower than those seen in infected normal mice. Mice receiving an antibody that blocks the interaction of OX40 with OX40L showed significantly higher pancreatic viral loads than untreated or normal mice. Next steps could include evaluating the effects of boosting OX40 levels in additional virus-induced disease models.</p> <p>huMAb-OX40L, a ligand mAb that blocks interaction of OX40L and OX40 from Genmab A/S, Genentech Inc. and Roche, is in Phase I testing to treat asthma.</p> <p>SciBX 2(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.367 Published online March 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Diana, J. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online Feb. 12, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2008.12.017 Contact: Agnès Lehuen, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: agnes.lehuen@inserm.fr</p>