

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Renal disease</b>				
Renal disease; renal damage	Dendritic cells (DCs)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that targeting proinflammatory DCs or their precursors could help delay or prevent kidney disease progression. In kidney disease mouse models expressing ovalbumin in glomerular podocytes, injection with ovalbumin-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> cytotoxic T lymphocytes and CD4<sup>+</sup> T helper cells increased periglomerular cell infiltration and inflammation compared with what was seen using either cell type alone or a combination of antigen-naïve cells. Depletion of native DCs reversed the increase in inflammatory cell infiltration. Next steps include evaluating the role of DCs in additional kidney disease models and in human biopsy samples. Argos Therapeutics Inc. has a soluble CD83 protein in preclinical testing to prevent transplant rejection and to treat autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>The Mater Medical Research Institute's RA83, a rabbit polyclonal antibody targeting human CD83 that selectively depletes activated DCs, is in preclinical testing to prevent acute graft-versus-host disease (GvHD).</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.723</b> Published online April 30, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Heymann, F. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online April 20, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI38399</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Christian Kurts, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany e-mail: <a href="mailto:ckurts@web.de">ckurts@web.de</a></p>