

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Transplantation</b>				
Graft-versus-host disease (GvHD)	IL-6; IL-6 receptor (CD126)	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture suggest that antibodies targeting IL-6 signaling could be useful for treating and preventing GvHD. In a mouse model of lethal GvHD, an anti-CD126 mAb significantly increased survival compared with a control antibody (<math>p=0.003</math>). In a mouse model of less severe disease, the mAb reduced tissue damage in the colon, liver and lungs compared with the control antibody. Next steps could include evaluating the use of marketed IL-6 mAbs in animal models of GvHD.</p> <p>RoActemra tocilizumab, a humanized CD126 mAb from Roche, is approved outside of the U.S. to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>At least nine other companies have compounds that inhibit IL-6 in Phase I or earlier to treat autoimmune conditions including rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and Crohn's disease (CD).</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.986</b> Published online June 18, 2009</p>	mAb patented; licensed to the Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. unit of Roche	<p>Chen, X. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online June 2, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-01-197178</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> William R. Drobyski, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis. e-mail: <a href="mailto:wdrobysk@mcw.edu">wdrobysk@mcw.edu</a></p>