This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Transplantation				
Graft-versus-host disease (GvHD)	P2X7 receptor	<p>Studies in mice suggest that blocking ATP-mediated activation of the P2X7 receptor on hematopoietic cells could help treat GvHD. In a mouse model of GvHD, a P2X7 receptor antagonist decreased disease symptoms and increased survival compared with vehicle control. In the same GvHD model, a P2x7 receptor deficiency in hematopoietic cells led to decreased GvHD symptoms and increased survival compared with a P2x7 receptor deficiency only in nonhematopoietic cells. Researchers did not disclose next steps, which could include evaluating a P2X7 receptor antagonist in additional animal models of GvHD. At least three companies have P2X7 receptor antagonists in Phase I testing or earlier to treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and pain.</p> <p>SciBX 3(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1423 Published online Dec. 9, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Wilhelm, K. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 21, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2242 Contact: Robert Zeiser, Albert Ludwigs University, Freiburg, Germany e-mail: robert.zeiser@uniklinik-freiburg.de Contact: Marco Idzko, same affiliation as above e-mail: marco.idzko@uniklinik-freiburg.de</p>