This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Postoperative ileus	IL-12	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting IL-12 could help prevent postoperative ileus by stopping the migration of T helper type 1 (Th1) cells. In mice, an IL-12-blocking antibody prevented Th1 cell migration and decreased the severity of postoperative ileus compared with vehicle or antibody controls ($p < 0.01$ and $p < 0.05$, respectively). Next steps could include developing inhibitors of Th1 cell migration and evaluating the compounds in animal models of postoperative ileus.</p> <p>Stelara ustekinumab, a human mAb against IL-12 and IL-23 from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Johnson & Johnson, is marketed to treat psoriasis and is in clinical trials for other autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>Briakinumab, a human mAb against IL-12 and IL-23 from Abbott Laboratories, is under review for psoriasis.</p> <p>At least four other companies have compounds that inhibit IL-12 in Phase II or earlier to treat autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 3(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1445 Published online Dec. 16, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Engel, D.R. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 28, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2255</p> <p>Contact: Christian Kurts, University Clinic Bonn, Bonn, Germany e-mail: ckurts@web.de</p> <p>Contact: Jörg C. Kalff, same affiliation as above e-mail: kalff@uni-bonn.de</p>