

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	Neutrophil extracellular trap (NET)	<p>Studies in human serum suggest that eliminating NETs could help treat SLE. NETs are protein-DNA complexes secreted by neutrophils to capture pathogens. In serum from SLE patients, as compared with serum from healthy controls, high NET levels correlated with high titers of anti-NET autoantibodies. High NET levels also correlated with higher incidence of lupus nephritis. Next steps include testing the effect of eliminating NETs in a mouse model of SLE and identifying the factors that prevent NET degradation in some SLE patients.</p> <p>SciBX 3(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.612 Published online May 20, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Hakkim, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 3, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0909927107 Contact: Arturo Zychlinsky, Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin, Germany e-mail: zychlinsky@mpiib-berlin.mpg.de</p>