This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	IgE	A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that mAbs engineered to bind a particular IgE epitope could be useful for treating allergies and asthma. In mouse models of allergy and asthma, a mAb engineered to recognize a region of allergy-associated IgEs that binds to the B cell membrane prevented IgE production compared with mock treatment. In cell culture, this mAb promoted apoptosis of IgE-bearing B cells. Next steps include testing whether using these mAbs affects memory B cells linked to allergy. Xolair omalizumab, a mAb that targets the secreted form of IgE, is marketed by Roche's Genentech Inc. unit and Novartis AG to treat allergy and asthma and is in Phase II trials for urticaria. SciBX 3(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.625 Published online May 20, 2010	Patented; unavailable for licensing	Brightbill, H.D. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 10, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI40141 Contact: Lawren Wu, Genentech Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: lawren@gene.com