

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)	Complement 5a (C5a)	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing C5a could be useful for treating RA. Mice treated with mannan, a polysaccharide that activates the complement system, underwent expansion of autoimmunity-associated T helper type 17 (Th17) cells and developed RA-like disease compared with mock-treated controls. C5a knockout mice treated with mannan had lower Th17 cell activation, inflammation and RA than similarly treated wild-type controls. Next steps include testing the effect of C5a blockade on expansion of human Th17 cells.</p> <p>Novo Nordisk A/S has an anti-C5a receptor antibody in Phase I testing for RA.</p> <p>Alligator Bioscience AB's ADC1004 C5a receptor antagonist is in preclinical development for inflammation.</p> <p>SciBX 3(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.639 Published online May 27, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Hashimoto, M. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online May 17, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20092301</p> <p>Contact: Shimon Sakaguchi, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: shimon@frontier.kyoto-u.ac.jp</p>