This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
<i>Escherichia coli</i> ; meningitis	Complement receptor 3 (CR3; CD11b); IL-10; prostaglandin E ₂ (PGE ₂)	<p>A study in mice suggests that increasing IL-10 or inhibiting PGE₂ signaling could help treat neonatal meningitis caused by <i>E. coli</i> K1. In newborn mice infected with <i>E. coli</i> K1 strains, intraperitoneal treatment with recombinant human IL-10 decreased bacteremia and prevented meningitis compared with mock treatment. The protective effect of IL-10 depended on suppression of PGE₂. Next steps include evaluating small molecule inhibitors of PGE₂ receptor signaling in models of bacterial meningitis.</p> <p>Prevascar, an intradermal injection of recombinant human IL-10 from Renovo Group plc, is in Phase II testing to treat scars and wrinkles.</p> <p>SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.675 Published online June 3, 2010</p>	<p>Work unpatented; available for licensing from the Childrens Hospital Los Angeles Office of Technology Transfer Contact: Jessica Rousset, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif. phone: 323-669-4531</p>	<p>Mittal, R. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online May 24, 2010; doi:10.1084/jem.20092265 Contact: Nemani V. Prasadaraao, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: pnemani@chla.usc.edu</p>