

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Chemokine CXC motif ligand 12 (CXCL12; SDF-1); CXC chemokine receptor 4 (CXCR4; NPY3R)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that activating CXCL12 signaling through CXCR4 could help treat MS. In a mouse model of MS, Cxcl12 signaling through Cxcr4 promoted neural stem cell (NSC)-mediated remyelination. In a mouse model of demyelination, a CXCR4 antagonist or small hairpin RNA targeting the <i>Cxcr4</i> gene both prevented remyelination compared with saline control buffer or nonsense control shRNA. Next steps include confirming the CXCL12 pathway in other mouse models of MS.</p> <p>SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.696 Published online June 10, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; available for licensing from the University of California, Irvine Office of Technology Alliance	<p>Carbajal, K.S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 31, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1006375107 Contact: Thomas E. Lane, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: tlane@uci.edu</p> <p>Patel, J.R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 31, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1006301107 Contact: Robyn S. Klein, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: rklein@id.wustl.edu</p>