

This week in therapeutics

Autoimmune disease

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Liver X receptor (LXR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that agonizing LXR could help treat autoimmune diseases including MS. In the experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) mouse model of MS, Lxr knockout worsened the disease and increased T helper type 17 (Th17) cell induction, whereas an LXR agonist suppressed the disease and Th17 cell differentiation. Next steps could include testing LXR agonists in additional animal models of MS.</p> <p>Exelixis Inc. and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. are developing XL652, an LXR agonist in Phase I testing to treat metabolic disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 4(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.186 Published online Feb. 17, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Cui, G. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Jan. 27, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI42974</p> <p>Contact: Ying Qin Zang, Institute for Nutritional Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China e-mail: yqin@sibs.ac.cn</p>