

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	IL-7; IL-7 receptor (IL-7R; CD127)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest serum IL-7 levels could help predict responsiveness to interferon-β (IFNβ; IFN-β) therapy. In relapsing-remitting MS patients, serum IL-7 levels were greater in patients who responded to IFN-β than those in nonresponders. In an experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) mouse model of MS, an anti-IL-7R antibody decreased disease severity compared with a control antibody or saline. Ongoing studies include validating the biomarker and testing toxicity of the therapeutic strategy.</p> <p>Amgen Inc. has AMG827, an antibody against IL-7R, in clinical testing to treat autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 4(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.873 Published online Aug. 11, 2011</p>	<p>Patent applications filed by Stanford University for predictive biomarker work and a linked therapeutic; therapeutic applications for IL-7R blockade patented by Pfizer Inc.; Atreca Inc. has the option to license the Stanford IP and is looking for partners</p>	<p>Lee, L.-F. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online July 27, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002400</p> <p>Contact: Lawrence Steinman, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: steinman@stanford.edu</p> <p>Contact: John C. Lin, Pfizer Inc., South San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: John.Lin@pfizer.com</p>