This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Prostacyclin receptor (PTGIR)	<p>Mouse studies suggest PTGIR agonists could help treat MS. In cocultures of mouse cortical neurons and vascular endothelial cells, prostacyclin secreted by endothelial cells or the prostacyclin analog iloprost promoted axonal sprouting and neurite growth. In mouse models of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), intrathecal delivery of iloprost increased neuronal remodeling around the lesion site compared with vehicle and promoted hind limb motor recovery. Planned studies include determining whether prostacyclin or PTGIR agonists could treat relapsing-remitting MS.</p> <p>Bayer AG and Actelion Ltd. market Ventavis iloprost, an inhaled prostacyclin analog, to treat hypertension and have the compound in Phase II testing to treat acute lung injury.</p> <p>SciBX 5(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1076 Published online Oct. 18, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Muramatsu, R. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 7, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2943</p> <p>Contact: Toshihide Yamashita, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan e-mail: yamashita@molneu.med.osaka-u.ac.jp</p>