This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)	Myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88 (MYD88)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting MYD88 in the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) could help treat dry AMD. Geographic atrophy, an advanced form of dry AMD, can be triggered by aberrant buildup of *Alu* RNA in the RPE. In mice with excess *Alu* RNA in the RPE, knockout of *NLR family pyrin domain containing 3* (*Nlrp3*; *Nalp3*), *Myd88* or *Il-18* all decreased RPE degeneration compared with normal expression. Also in the mice, a peptide-based MYD88 inhibitor prevented *Alu* RNA–induced retinal damage. Next steps at iVeena Pharmaceuticals Inc., the licensee of the findings, include screening for and developing small molecule–, small interfering RNA– or peptide-based inhibitors of MYD88.	Findings covered by patent applications; licensed to iVeena	Tarallo, V. *et al. Cell*; published online April 26, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.03.036 **Contact:** Jayakrishna Ambati, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. e-mail: jamba2@email.uky.edu

SciBX 5(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.530
Published online May 17, 2012