

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Psoriasis	IL-17 receptor (IL17R; IL17RA); IL-17A	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified variants of IL17RA that could help treat plaque psoriasis. In cell-based assays, soluble, mutated versions of IL17RA bound IL-17A and decreased IL-17A-induced secretion of inflammatory cytokines from human fibroblast cells compared with the soluble, wild-type receptor. In a mouse model for plaque psoriasis, subcutaneous injection of an IL17RA variant improved skin recovery with potency comparable to that of dexamethasone, a generic anti-inflammatory steroid. Next steps include preclinical testing of the compounds in additional autoimmune indications. Amgen Inc. and AstraZeneca plc have brodalumab, a humanized mAb against IL17RA, in Phase III testing to treat psoriasis. At least two other companies have inhibitors or antibodies targeting IL17RA in Phase II testing or earlier to treat psoriasis.</p> <p>SciBX 6(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.233 Published online March 14, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Zaretsky, M. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Feb. 21, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2012.11.012 Contact: Amir Aharoni, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er Sheva, Israel e-mail: aaharoni@bgu.ac.il</p>