

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	Vitamin D receptor (VDR)	<p>Studies in mice and in patient samples suggest VDR activation could help treat IBD. In mouse models of IBD, overexpression of human VDR in intestinal epithelial cells decreased colitis severity compared with wild-type VDR expression. In <i>Vdr</i> knockout mice, expression of human VDR in intestinal epithelial cells decreased colitis severity and increased survival compared with no human VDR expression. In colonic biopsy samples from patients with IBD, VDR expression was lower than that in samples from normal subjects. Next steps could include testing VDR agonists in animal models of colitis.</p> <p>SciBX 6(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.985 Published online Sept. 19, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Liu, W. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Aug. 15, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI65842 Contact: Yan Chun Li, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: cyan@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu</p>