

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	IL-12	<p>Mouse studies suggest antagonizing IL-12 or using vaccines that limit IL-12 production could help protect against influenza infection. In mice primed with dendritic cells presenting an influenza A virus nucleoprotein (NP) epitope (DC-NP), those boosted with an NP-expressing vaccinia virus had lower levels of IL-12 and higher numbers of respiratory, NP-specific memory CD8⁺ T cells than those boosted with NP-expressing <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (LM-NP). In a mouse model of influenza A virus infection, adding an anti-IL-12 antibody to the prime and LM-NP boost regimen increased the number of memory CD8⁺ T cells and decreased viral titer compared with adding IgG. Next steps could include finding additional cytokines that affect the formation of memory CD8⁺ T cells.</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Johnson & Johnson market Stelara ustekinumab, a human mAb inhibiting IL-12 and IL-23, to treat psoriatic arthritis and have the drug in Phase III or earlier testing for other autoimmune indications.</p> <p>SciBX 7(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.22 Published online Jan. 9, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Slütter, B. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online Nov. 14, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2013.09.013 Contact: John T. Harty, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: john-harty@uiowa.edu</p>