

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Ophthalmic disease				
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)	IL-18	<p>Mouse studies suggest recombinant IL-18 could help treat AMD. Knockout of IL-18 in mice results in AMD-like pathological neovascularization in the eye. In a mouse model of laser-induced choroidal neovascularization (CNV), intravitreal injection or systemic treatment with recombinant human IL-18 attenuated CNV neovascularization without affecting retinal pigment epithelial cell integrity. In the same mouse model, intravitreal injection of an anti-VEGF antibody plus subcutaneous injection of IL-18 increased CNV suppression compared with injection of the anti-VEGF antibody alone. Next steps include conducting further safety studies before designing a clinical study to treat AMD.</p> <p>SciBX 7(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.532 Published online May 8, 2014</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use of IL-18 for CNV secondary to AMD; IP covered under an option agreement with GlaxoSmithKline plc</p>	<p>Doyle, S.L. <i>et al. Sci. Trans. Med.</i>; published online April 2, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3007616 Contact: Matthew Campbell, Smurfit Institute of Genetics at Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland e-mail: matthew.campbell@tcd.ie Contact: Sarah L. Doyle, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland e-mail: sarah.doyle@tcd.ie</p>