This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Autoimmune; inflammatory disease	Baculoviral IAP repeat-containing 2 (BIRC2; cIAP1); baculoviral IAP repeat-containing 3 (BIRC3; cIAP2); caspase recruitment domain family member 4 (CARD4; NOD1); caspase recruitment domain family member 15 (CARD15; NOD2)	Studies in mice and cell culture suggest that inhibiting BIRC2 and BIRC3 could help treat autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. In a mouse model of Nod-associated inflammation, <i>Birc2</i> or <i>Birc3</i> knockout blocked Nod-dependent production of inflammatory factors compared with that seen in wild-type controls. In human intestinal epithelial cells, RNAi targeting BIRC2 or BIRC3 blocked NOD1-dependent production of inflammatory factors compared with scrambled RNAi. Next steps include developing inhibitors of BIRC2 and BIRC3.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Bertrand, M.J.M. <i>et al. Immunity</i> ; published online June 18, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2009.04.011 Contact: Maya Saleh, McGill University Life Sciences Complex, Quebec, Canada e-mail: maya.saleh@mcgill.ca Contact: Philip A. Barker, same affiliation as above e-mail: phil.barker@mcgill.ca
SciBX 2(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1120 Published online July 23, 2009				