This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation; asthma	Somatostatin receptor 4 (SSTR4)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that SSTR4 agonists could be useful for treating inflammatory diseases such as dermatitis and asthma. In a mouse model of paw inflammation, <i>Sstr4</i> knockout led to increased paw edema and a lower pain threshold than was seen in wild-type mice. An SSTR4 agonist increased the pain threshold of the wild-type but not the knockout mice. In a model of asthma, <i>Sstr4</i> knockout mice had greater airway inflammation than wild-type mice, and in a model of allergic contact dermatitis, <i>Sstr4</i> knockout mice showed greater ear swelling than wild-type mice. Future studies could include testing SSTR4 agonists in other animal models of inflammation.</p> <p>DeveloGen AG's Somatoprim (DG3173), a somatostatin analog that targets SSTR4, SSTR2 and SSTR5, has completed Phase I testing to treat acromegaly and diabetic retinopathy.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1153 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Helyes, Z. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 13, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900681106</p> <p>Contact: János Szolcsányi, University of Pecs, Pecs, Hungary e-mail: janos.szolcsanyi@aok.pte.hu</p>