This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	Caspase-8 (CASP8; FLICE); interferon regulatory factor 3 (IRF3)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting IRF3 could help treat or prevent inflammatory skin disorders. In mice, knockout of the proapoptotic <i>Casp8</i> caused phosphorylation of Irf3, which led to chronic skin inflammation. In cultured keratinocytes, <i>Casp8</i> knockdown increased the inflammatory response to nucleic acids. Next steps could include identifying inhibitors of IRF3. SciBX 2(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1416 Published online Sept. 24, 2009	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Kovalenko, A. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i> ; published online Aug. 31, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20090616 Contact: David Wallach, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel e-mail: d.wallach@weizmann.ac.il