This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Septic shock; asthma	Nitric oxide (NO); inducible nitric oxide synthase (NOS2; INOS)	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that inducing formation of NOS2 aggresomes may help decrease excess NO production associated with septic shock, asthma and other inflammatory diseases. NOS2, which produces NO, has been implicated in the pathogenesis of multiple inflammatory diseases. In cellular imaging studies, cells containing NOS2 aggresomes produced less NO than cells lacking aggresomes. The imaging studies also showed that the NOS2 in aggresomes was chemically inactive. Next steps include studying cellular mechanisms of aggresome development and how those affect cell survival <i>in vivo</i>.</p> <p>274150, a selective NOS2 inhibitor from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in Phase II testing to treat asthma and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). VAS203, a NO synthase inhibitor from vasopharm GmbH, is in Phase I testing to treat shock/trauma.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.149 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Pandit, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 12, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810968106 Contact: N. Tony Eissa, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas e-mail: teissa@bcm.edu</p>