This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	VEGFA; claudin 5 (CLDN5)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that upregulating CLDN5 could be useful for treating inflammatory diseases of the CNS that are caused by breakdown of the blood-brain barrier (BBB). In a mouse model of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), upregulation of Vegfa was accompanied by decreases in endothelial Cldn5, leading to breakdown of the BBB. In brain microvascular endothelial cells, expression of recombinant CLDN5 protected the cells from VEGFA-induced increases in paracellular permeability. Next steps include investigating the mechanisms behind breakdown of the BBB.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.196 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Argaw, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0808698106</p> <p>Contact: Gareth R. John, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y. e-mail: gareth.john@mssm.edu</p>