This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA); multiple sclerosis (MS); multiple myeloma (MM)	Chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 1 (CCR1)	<p>An SAR study characterized a series of pyrrolidine urea-based CCR1 antagonists that could be useful for treating RA, MS, MM and other diseases caused by deregulation of monocyte infiltration. The lead compound inhibited CCR1-mediated monocyte trafficking to sites of inflammation with an IC_{50} value of 20 nM. The compound was selective for CCR1 compared with other chemokine receptors and was orally bioavailable in rats. Next steps include further preclinical testing of the lead compound.</p> <p>CCX354, a small molecule inhibitor of CCR1 from ChemoCentryx Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in Phase I testing to treat RA.</p> <p>PS031291, a CCR1 antagonist from Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat RA.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.296 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	Patent application filed by Pharmacopeia, which was acquired by Ligand Pharmaceuticals last year; available for licensing	<p>Merritt, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Jan. 30, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801416q</p> <p>Contact: J. Robert Merritt, Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cranbury, N.J. e-mail: bmerritt@pcop.com</p>