This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	Mitogen-activated protein kinase 14 (MAPK14; p38)	<p>SAR and <i>in vitro</i> studies identified aza-analog dibenzepinones as a new class of MAPK14 inhibitors that could help treat rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and other chronic inflammatory diseases. To improve the bioavailability of dibenzepinones, the aza-analogs were synthesized with a more hydrophilic scaffold. The new compounds had better aqueous solubility than parent compounds but had lower potency against MAPK. The increased solubility could provide better bioavailability and allow the compounds to be better tolerated at higher doses than the parent compound. Next steps could include studies of the compounds in animals.</p> <p>At least nine companies have compounds targeting MAPK14 in clinical testing to treat RA or other inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.459 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Karcher, S. & Laufer, S. <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 2, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801291f</p> <p>Contact: Stefan A. Laufer, Eberhard-Karls University, Tübingen, Germany e-mail: stefan.laufer@uni-tuebingen.de</p>