This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	Prostaglandin E ₂ receptor EP2 subtype (PTGER2); PTGER4; IL-1 receptor 1 (IL1R1); IL-23 receptor (IL23R); IL-17	<p>Studies in human samples suggest that inhibiting prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂) receptors may be useful for treating inflammation. In naïve human T cells from healthy volunteers, activation of PGE₂ receptors boosted the expression of IL1R1 and IL23R compared with what was seen in untreated controls, which led to an increase in proinflammatory IL-17-producing T helper type 17 (T_H17) cells. Next steps could include identifying and evaluating inhibitors of PGE₂ or its receptors in animal models of inflammation.</p> <p>HF0220, an epiandrosterone that upregulates 15-deoxy-delta-12,14-prostaglandin J₂ (15d-PGJ₂) and downregulates PGE₂ from Newron Pharmaceuticals S.p.A., is in Phase I testing to treat inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).</p> <p>BGC20-1531, a PTGER4 antagonist from BTG plc and Asterand plc, is in Phase I testing to treat migraines.</p> <p>OX-MPI, a selective PGE₂ inhibitor from Orexo AB and Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH, is in preclinical testing to treat pain.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.460 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Boniface, K. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online March 9, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20082293</p> <p>Contact: René de Waal Malefyt, Schering-Plough Corp., Palo Alto, Calif. e-mail: rene.de.waal.malefyt@spcorp.com</p> <p>Contact: Daniel J. Cua, same affiliation as above e-mail: daniel.cua@spcorp.com</p>