This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammatory disease	IκB kinase (IKK)	<p>An SAR study characterized a series of oxazole, thiazole and imidazole tricycles as IKK inhibitors that could help treat inflammatory diseases. Several of the compounds had better metabolic stability and pharmacokinetics than the parent pyrazolopurine and thiophene tricycles. In a murine model of tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α) production, the most potent IKK inhibitor lowered serum TNF-α levels by 50% compared with those seen using vehicle ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include further optimization of the inhibitors.</p> <p>MLN0415, a small molecule IKK inhibitor from Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.'s Millennium Pharmaceuticals Inc. subsidiary, is in Phase I testing to treat inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.498 Published online March 26, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kempson, J. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 6, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm8015816</p> <p>Contact: James Kempson, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. Research and Development, Princeton, N.J. e-mail: james.kempson@bms.com</p>