This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Allergy; asthma	Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4)	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing TLR4 on airway epithelial cells may help prevent allergy-induced asthma. In wild-type mice sensitized to a house dust mite allergen, intrapulmonary delivery of a TLR4 antagonist lowered airway inflammation and inflammatory cytokine levels after allergen challenge compared with what was seen using vehicle control. Next steps include confirming the results in additional animal models of asthma. Eritoran, a TLR4 antagonist from Eisai Co. Ltd., is in Phase III testing to treat sepsis. TAK-242, a TLR4 signal transduction inhibitor from Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., is in Phase III for sepsis.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.584 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Hammad, H. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online March 29, 2009; doi:10.1038/nm.1946 Contact: Bart N. Lambrecht, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium e-mail: bart.lambrecht@ugent.be</p>