This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma; allergy; inflammation	IL-1; IL-5; IL-13; tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α)	<p>A study in cell culture identified marine microbe-derived inhibitors of proinflammatory cytokine release that could help treat asthma and other inflammatory disorders. In allergen-induced murine lymphocytes, two of the lactone-based inhibitors blocked IL-5 and IL-13 release with nanomolar IC₅₀ values comparable to those for the generic corticosteroid dexamethasone. In a separate cytokine production assay, the two compounds inhibited IL-1 and TNF-α at values slightly lower than those of dexamethasone. Next steps could include evaluating preclinical toxicology and ADME properties of these compounds.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.585 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Strangman, W.K. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 26, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm801110j</p> <p>Contact: William Fenical, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: wfenical@ucsd.edu</p>