This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammatory disease	Glucocorticoid receptor (NR3C1; GCCR); peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- α (PPARA; PPAR α)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a combination of a GCCR agonist and a PPARα agonist could help treat chronic inflammatory diseases. In several cell lines, the GCCRα variant agonist dexamethasone combined with different PPARα agonists had additive effects in preventing NF-κB-driven gene expression and suppressing inflammatory cytokine production. In a mouse model of hyperinsulinemia, dexamethasone plus the PPARα agonist fenofibrate prevented glucose intolerance and hyperinsulinemia, which are side effects of glucocorticoid treatment for inflammation. Next steps include testing additional PPARα agonist combination therapies in other relevant disease models.</p> <p>At least eight companies have PPARα agonists in clinical and preclinical testing to treat diabetes and dyslipidemia.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.586 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Patent application filed covering therapeutic applications of findings; Ghent University is seeking an industrial partner to develop a combination product	<p>Bougarne, N. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 30, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0806742106</p> <p>Contact: Karolien De Bosscher, Ghent University, Gent, Belgium e-mail: karolien.debosscher@ugent.be</p>