This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Bacterial infection; multiple sclerosis (MS)	Heme oxygenase (decycling) 1 (HMOX1; HO- 1); interferon- β (IFN- β)	<p>A study in mice suggests that targeting HO-1 expression could be useful for treating bacterial infections or MS. In a mouse model of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> infection, 70% of mice with myeloid-specific Ho-1 knockout were alive at 14 days post-infection compared with 10% of wild-type controls. The infected knockout mice had lower serum Ifn-β levels than wild-type controls. Conversely, in a mouse model of experimental autoimmune encephalitis (EAE), mice with the myeloid-specific Ho-1 deficiency displayed more severe disease symptoms than nondeficient controls. Treatment with recombinant Ifn-β reversed this effect. Next steps include ongoing efforts to develop an assay to screen libraries for HO-1 agonists and antagonists.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.844 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	<p>Provisional patent filed covering methodology, use in screening and treatment of viral infections, autoimmune conditions and cancer; available for licensing from the Alexander Fleming Biomedical Sciences Research Center Innovation and Enterprise Unit</p> <p>Contact: Kay Martin, Alexander Fleming Biomedical Sciences Research Center, Vari, Greece phone: +30 210-965-6310 x266 e-mail: martin@fleming.gr</p>	<p>Tzima, S. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online April 27, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20081582</p> <p>Contact: George Kollias, Alexander Fleming Biomedical Sciences Research Center, Vari, Greece e-mail: kollias@fleming.gr</p>