This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Allergy; asthma; inflammatory disease	Transient receptor potential A1 (TRPA1)	Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting TRPA1 could be useful for treating allergy-associated inflammatory diseases like asthma. In a mouse model for allergen-induced airway inflammation, TrpA1^{-/-} mice showed less leukocyte infiltration and airway hyperreactivity than wild-type controls. In the same model, the same results were seen in wild-type mice treated with the TrpA1 antagonist HC-030031. Next steps include evaluating TrpA1 antagonists in additional mouse models of asthma. HC-030031, a small molecule TrpA1 antagonist from Hydra Biosciences Inc., is in preclinical testing for pulmonary indications and pain. SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.881 Published online May 28, 2009	Patent pending covering HC-030031 and its analogs; Hydra Biosciences is seeking a partner for its TRPA1 program	Caceres, A.I. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 18, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900591106 Contact: Sven-Eric Jordt, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: sven.jordt@yale.edu Contact: Magdalene M. Moran, Hydra Biosciences Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: mmoran@hydrabiosciences.com