This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	NLR family pyrin domain containing 1 (NLRP1; NALP1); NLRP3 (NALP3)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting NLRP1 and NLRP3 inflammasomes could help treat excessive inflammation associated with arthritis, type 2 diabetes and other inflammatory diseases. In bone marrow-derived macrophages, mouse CD4 ⁺ T cells inhibited Nlrp1 and Nlrp3 inflammasome-mediated inflammatory responses. In a mouse model of peritonitis, mice lacking CD4 ⁺ T cells did not show the normal gradual decrease in inflammatory responses seen in mice that had CD4 ⁺ T cells. Next steps could include identifying small molecule modulators of NLRP1 and NLRP3 inflammasomes.	Patent applications filed worldwide; available for licensing	Guarda, G. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online June 3, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08100 Contact: Jürg Tschopp, University of Lausanne, Epalinges, Switzerland e-mail: jurg.tschopp@unil.ch
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