This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	Cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2); COX-1	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified a new class of COX-2 inhibitors that could help treat inflammation. One of the compounds, a 4-(aryloyl) phenylmethylsulfone, selectively inhibited COX-2 over COX-1. In a rat paw edema model, the compound inhibited inflammation better than did ibuprofen. Next steps include ongoing testing of the COX-2 inhibitors in other models of inflammation. Pfizer Inc. and Astellas Pharma Inc. market Celebrex celecoxib to treat autoimmune diseases, pain and inflammation.</p> <p>At least seven companies have COX-2 inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed for various inflammatory conditions.</p> <p>SciBX 3(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1096 Published online Sept. 16, 2010</p>	Findings patented by the University of Barcelona; available for licensing worldwide	<p>Harrak, Y. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Aug. 30, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100398z</p> <p>Contact: Maria Dolors Pujol, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain e-mail: mdpujol@ub.edu</p> <p>Contact: Ramon Pouplana, same affiliation as above e-mail: rpouplana@ub.edu</p>