This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Cystic fibrosis (CF)	Peroxisome proliferation- activated receptor- γ (PPARG; PPAR γ)	A study in cell culture and in mice suggests that PPARG agonists could help treat gastrointestinal symptoms associated with CF. Murine colon cells lacking cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) had lower levels of PPARG activity and fewer endogenous PPARG ligands than wild-type cells. In colon-specific CFTR knockout mice, the PPARG agonist Avandia rosiglitazone decreased accumulation of intestinal mucus and increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps include testing PPARG agonists in lung cells from CF patients and measuring levels of endogenous PPARG ligands in CF patients. PPARG agonists Avandia from GlaxoSmithKline plc and Actos pioglitazone from Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. are marketed to treat diabetes.	Patent pending; available for licensing	Harmon, G.S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Feb. 14, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2101 Contact: Christopher Glass, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: ckg@ucsd.edu Contact: Gregory Harmon, same affiliation as above e-mail: gharmon@ucsd.edu
SciBX 3(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.318 Published online March 11, 2010				