This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	Endoplasmic reticulum to nucleus signaling 1 (ERN1; IRE1); X-box binding protein 1 (XBP1)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that activating XBP1 could help treat infection. In mice infected with <i>Francisella tularensis</i> , animals with macrophage-specific <i>Xbp1</i> deficiency had impaired cytokine secretion and increased bacterial burden compared with mice expressing wild-type macrophages. Next steps include identifying agonists of ERN1, the upstream activator of XBP1.	Patent application filed covering this discovery as well as the broad role of ERN1 and XBP1 in other organs; available for licensing	Martinon, F. <i>et al. Nat. Immunol.</i> ; published online March 28, 2010; doi:10.1038/ni.1857 Contact: Laurie Glimcher, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass. e-mail: lglimche@hsph.harvard.edu
SciBX 3(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.438 Published online April 8, 2010				