This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	IκB kinase (IKK)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that vinpocetine could help treat inflammation. In a mouse model of lipopolysaccharide (LPS)- or tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α)-induced lung inflammation, vinpocetine inhibited proinflammatory mediators and infiltration of polymorphonuclear neutrophils compared with vehicle. Cell-free assays showed that vinpocetine reduced TNF-α-mediated inflammation by acting on IKK. Next steps include studies in animal models of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), atherosclerosis, children's middle ear infection, psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).</p> <p>The alkaloid derivative vinpocetine is a generic vasodilator. Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.'s MLN0415, a small molecule IKK inhibitor, is in Phase I testing to treat inflammation.</p> <p>SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.590 Published online May 13, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing for the anti-inflammatory application	<p>Jeon, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 3, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0914414107</p> <p>Contact: Chen Yan, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, N.Y. e-mail: chen_yan@urmc.rochester.edu</p> <p>Contact: Jian-Dong Li, same affiliation as above e-mail: jian-dong_li@urmc.rochester.edu</p>