This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); Crohn's disease	Potassium channel KCa3.1 (KCNN4)	<p>Studies in murine cells and in mice suggest that inhibiting KCNN4 could help treat IBD. CD4⁺ T cells from <i>Kcnn4</i> knockout mice produced less proinflammatory cytokines than CD4⁺ T cells from wild-type mice. In mouse models of colitis, adoptive transfer of <i>Kcnn4</i>-deficient CD4⁺ T cells or treatment with a KCNN4 inhibitor reduced disease severity compared with that in controls. Ongoing work includes studying the effects of KCNN4 blockade in CD4⁺ T cells isolated from human IBD patients.</p> <p>Icagen Inc.'s senicapoc (ICA-17043), a small molecule KCNN4 inhibitor, has completed Phase II testing to treat exercise-induced asthma.</p> <p>SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.78 Published online Jan. 21, 2010</p>	Patented by The Regents of the University of California; licensed to Icagen	<p>Di, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 4, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0910133107</p> <p>Contact: Edward Y. Skolnik, New York University Langone Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: skolnik@saturn.med.nyu.edu</p>