This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	Purinergic receptor P2X ligand-gated ion channel 4 (P2X ₄ ; P2RX ₄); prostaglandin E ₂ (PGE ₂)	A study in mice suggests that inhibiting P2RX ₄ could help treat inflammatory pain. In mice, <i>P2rx4</i> knockout yielded lower responsiveness to inflammatory pain than that seen in wild-type controls. <i>P2rx4</i> knockout also reduced amounts of the proinflammatory factor PGE ₂ after administration of pain- and inflammation-inducing agents. Next steps could include identifying and evaluating P2RX ₄ inhibitors in animal models. OX-MPI, a selective PGE ₂ inhibitor from Orexo AB, is in preclinical development to treat pain. SciBX 3(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.795 Published online July 1, 2010	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Ulmann, L. <i>et al. EMBO J.</i> ; published online June 16, 2010; doi:10.1038/EMBOJ.2010.126 Contact: Francois Rassendren, Institute of Functional Genomics, Montpellier, France e-mail: far@igh.cnrs.fr