This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Pulmonary fibrosis	β -Catenin (CTNNB1); CREB binding protein (CREBBP; CBP)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that inhibiting CTNNB1 and CBP signaling could help treat idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). In a mouse model of bleomycin-induced IPF, ICG-001, a selective small molecule inhibitor of the CTNNB1-CBP interaction, decreased infiltration of proinflammatory cells into airways and lowered the severity of lung fibrosis compared with corticosteroid or saline control. In the same mouse model, ICG-001 also reversed lung fibrosis and increased survival compared with saline. Ongoing work includes investigating the role of CTNNB1-CBP signaling in renal and hepatic fibrosis.</p> <p>Esbriet pirfenidone, a small molecule inhibitor of proinflammatory and profibrotic cytokines from InterMune Inc., Marnac Inc. and Shionogi & Co. Ltd., has completed Phase III testing to treat IPF.</p> <p>Cequent Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s CEQ508, an oral RNAi targeting CTNNB1 delivered using TransKingdom RNAi (tkRNAi) technology, is in Phase I testing to treat familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP).</p> <p>Santaris Pharma A/S and Enzon Pharmaceuticals Inc. are developing EZN-3889 and EZN-3892. The CTNNB1 RNA antagonists based on Locked Nucleic Acid (LNA) technology are in preclinical development to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.928 Published online Aug. 5, 2010</p>	ICG-001 and its uses patented by Prism BioLab Co. Ltd. and the University of Southern California, respectively; use patents licensed to Prism	<p>Henderson, W.R. Jr. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 19, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1001520107</p> <p>Contact: Michael Kahn, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: michael.kahn@keck.usc.edu</p> <p>Contact: William R. Henderson Jr., University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: joangb@u.washington.edu</p>