This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS); shock/trauma	C-type lectin domain family 5 member A (CLEC5A; MDL1); phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K); spleen tyrosine kinase (SYK); protein kinase B (PKB; PKBA; AKT; AKT1)	Mouse studies suggest antagonizing MDL1 or any of several downstream kinases could help treat SIRS, an inflammatory condition that leads to shock. In a mouse model of SIRS, an anti-MDL1 mAb lowered systemic inflammation and resulted in better survival than control antibodies. In mice, pharmacological blockade of Pi3k, Syk or Akt prevented Mdl1 activation-induced SIRS and shock, whereas vehicle did not. Merck & Co. Inc. did not disclose next steps, which could include optimization and clinical development of anti-MDL1 mAbs for SIRS and shock.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Cheung, R. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Oct.17, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI57682 Contact: Ricky Cheung, Merck Research Laboratories, Palo Alto, Calif. e-mail: ricky.cheung@utoronto.ca Contact: Robert H. Pierce, same affiliation as above e-mail: robert.pierce@merck.com
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