This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	Gastrin-releasing peptide (GRP)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting GRP signaling could help treat asthma. In mouse models of air pollution- and allergen-induced asthma, blocking Grp signaling with a small molecule or anti-Grp antibody resulted in less severe asthma-associated symptoms and lower cytokine levels than using saline control. In the same mice, a small molecule GRP inhibitor had a stronger overall effect than did the active comparator dexamethasone, a generic steroid. Next steps include studying the mechanism of the small molecule GRP inhibitor.</p> <p>SciBX 4(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.168 Published online Feb. 10, 2011</p>	Patent pending covering GRP signaling and blocking agents for use in lung inflammatory diseases; available for licensing	<p>Zhou, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 17, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1014792108 Contact: Mary E. Sunday, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: mary.sunday@duke.edu Contact: Shutang Zhou, same affiliation as above e-mail: shutang.zhou@duke.edu</p>