This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Cystic fibrosis (CF)	Cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified aminoarythiazole (AAT) compounds that could help treat CF. In a cell line expressing mutant CFTR, one of the compounds increased CFTR activity and protein trafficking compared with no treatment. In primary bronchial epithelial cells from patients with CFTR mutations, the most potent AAT analog restored CFTR activity compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include synthesis of additional AAT analogs to better determine their mechanism of action.</p> <p>Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s VX-809 and VX-770, which are small molecules targeting CFTR, are in Phase III and Phase II testing, respectively, to treat CF.</p> <p>SciBX 4(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.379 Published online March 31, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Pedemonte, N. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online March 7, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.M110.184267</p> <p>Contact: Luis J.V. Galiotta, University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy e-mail: galiotta@unige.it</p>