This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Osteoarthritis (OA)	ADAM metallopeptidase with thrombospondin type 1 motif 4 (ADAMTS4); ADAMTS5	<i>In vitro</i> and rat studies identified a series of selective aggrecanase inhibitors that could help treat OA. The aggrecanases ADAMTS4 and ADAMTS5 are zinc metallopeptidases that contribute to articular cartilage breakdown in OA. SAR studies identified a series of sulfamidocyclopropanecarboxylate compounds as potent and selective inhibitors of the aggrecanases. In rats, the lead compound had good bioavailability and pharmacokinetics compared with nonspecific aggrecanase inhibitors. Next steps could include testing the compounds in models of arthritis.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Shiozaki, M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online March 21, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm101609j Contact: Takashi Inaba, Japan Tobacco Inc., Osaka, Japan e-mail: takashi.inaba@jt.com
SciBX 4(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.392 Published online April 7, 2011				