This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Cancer; inflammation	CXC chemokine receptor 4 (CXCR4; NPY3R)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified derivatives of a CXCR4 antagonist that could help treat inflammation and cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, the dipyrimidine amine derivatives were more potent and selective antagonists than the parent compound. The lead derivative decreased angiogenesis and micrometastases in two different mouse models of cancer and decreased inflammation in a mouse model of edema compared with the parent compound. Ongoing work includes clinical testing of the derivatives and developing the compounds as PET tracers.</p> <p>At least seven companies have CXCR4 antagonists in clinical and preclinical testing for cancer and inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 4(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.55 Published online Jan. 13, 2011</p>	Provisional patent application filed covering the tracer compound and its use as an imaging agent; patent applications pending for the therapeutic agent; both compounds available for licensing	<p>Zhu, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Nov. 24, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100786g Contact: Hyunsuk Shim, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: hshim@emory.edu Contact: Dennis C. Liotta, same affiliation as above e-mail: dliotta@emory.edu Contact: James P. Snyder, same affiliation as above e-mail: jsnyder@emory.edu</p>