This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Autoimmune diseases; inflammatory diseases	RAR-related orphan receptor C (RORC; ROR γ ; ROR γ T)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified ursolic acid as a ROR γ T inhibitor that could help treat T helper type 17 (Th17) cell-mediated autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. In cell-based assays, ursolic acid inhibited substrate binding to ROR γ T and blocked ROR γ T-mediated Th17 cell differentiation compared with vehicle. In a mouse model of experimental autoimmune encephalitis (EAE), ursolic acid delayed disease onset and decreased disease symptoms compared with vehicle. Next steps could include developing optimized analogs and derivatives of ursolic acid.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Xu, T. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online May 12, 2011; doi:10.1074/jbc.C111.250407 Contact: Chen Dong, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: cdong@mdanderson.org Contact: Sheng Ding, University of California San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: sheng.ding@gladstone.ucsf.edu
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