This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Cancer; sepsis	D-dopachrome tautomerase (DDT)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest blocking DDT could help treat inflammatory diseases and cancers. In a binding assay, DDT bound the macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) receptor CD47 and activated an inflammatory signaling cascade. In a mouse model of lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced sepsis, MIF and DDT levels were greater than those in mice given saline, and pretreatment with an anti-DDT antibody improved survival compared with an antibody control pretreatment. In serum from sepsis and ovarian cancer patients, DDT and MIF levels were greater than those in serum from healthy controls. Next steps include developing an anti-DDT mAb and a small molecule antagonist of the target.</p> <p>SciBX 4(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.915 Published online Aug. 18, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; DDT-neutralizing antibodies available for licensing worldwide for anti-inflammatory and oncology applications	<p>Merk, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 4, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1102941108</p> <p>Contact: Richard Bucala, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: richard.bucala@yale.edu</p>