This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	Solute carrier family 26 member 9 (SLC26A9)	A mouse and patient genetic study suggests activating SLC26A9 could help treat asthma-associated mucus obstruction. In genetic studies, SNPs located upstream of <i>SLC26A9</i>, which blunted gene expression in a cell-based assay, were associated with childhood asthma. In a mouse model of IL-13-induced asthma, <i>Slc26a9</i> knockout mice had greater airway mucus obstruction than wild-type mice. Next steps include developing a pharmacological approach for activating <i>SLC26A9</i> and identifying patients with asthma that have reduced <i>SLC26A9</i> function. <i>SciBX</i> 5(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1033 Published online Oct. 4, 2012	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Anagnostopoulou, P. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 4, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI60429 Contact: Marcus A. Mall, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: marcus.mall@med.uni-heidelberg.de