This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Cystic fibrosis (CF)	Poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-3 (PARP-3)	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest antagonizing PARP-3 could be useful for treating CF. In a cell culture screen for small molecules that improved the function of the $\Delta F508$ variant of cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR), a common cause of CF, the sea sponge-derived compound latonduine increased surface expression and function of CFTR compared with vehicle. In both <i>ex vivo</i> murine intestinal tissue and an <i>in vivo</i> salivation assay, latonduine increased CFTR function compared with vehicle. Next steps include SAR studies to identify more potent and selective PARP-3 inhibitors.</p> <p>Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s VX-809, a small molecule corrector of CFTR $\Delta F508$, is in Phase II testing for CF.</p> <p>SciBX 5(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1186 Published online Nov. 15, 2012</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Carlile, G.W. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Oct. 26, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2012.08.014</p> <p>Contact: Graeme W. Carlile, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: graeme.carlile@mcgill.ca</p>