This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Pancreatitis	Calcineurin	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting calcineurin could help treat biliary pancreatitis. Biliary pancreatitis is caused by biliary acid reflux that increases Ca²⁺ in pancreatic cells. In primary mouse pancreatic acinar cells, bile acid-induced Ca²⁺ upregulation caused calcineurin activation and cell injury. The process was prevented by Ca²⁺ chelation or calcineurin inhibition. In a mouse model of bile acid-induced pancreatitis, inhibition of calcineurin decreased disease severity compared with no inhibition. Next steps could include testing calcineurin inhibition in additional animal models.</p> <p>Isotechnika Pharma Inc., 3SBio Inc. and Paladin Labs Inc. have the calcineurin inhibitor Voclera voclosporin in clinical and preclinical testing for indications including lupus, psoriasis and renal transplant rejection.</p> <p>SciBX 5(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1235 Published online Dec. 6, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Muili, K.A. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Nov. 12, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.428896</p> <p>Contact: Sohail Z. Husain, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: sohail.husain@chp.edu</p>