This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	p38 Mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38 MAPK; MAPK14)	<p>Mouse studies suggest inhibiting p38 MAPK in dendritic cells (DCs) could help treat inflammation. p38 MAPK inhibition has known anti-inflammatory effects but also has proinflammatory side effects such as allergic skin disease. In a mouse model of allergic skin disease, knockout of <i>p38 Mapk</i> in keratinocytes or myeloid cells led to increased allergic skin reactions compared with normal <i>p38 Mapk</i> expression, whereas knockout in DCs led to decreased allergic skin reactions. Next steps include developing a DC-selective drug delivery vehicle for p38 MAPK inhibitors.</p> <p>At least nine companies have p38 MAPK inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing for multiple indications.</p> <p>SciBX 5(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.607 Published online June 7, 2012</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Ritprajak, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 21, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1202984109</p> <p>Contact: Jin Mo Park, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: jmpark@cbr2.mgh.harvard.edu</p>