This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Atopic dermatitis	Periostin (POSTN)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest blocking POSTN could help treat atopic dermatitis. In a mouse model of house dust mite-induced allergic skin inflammation, knockout of Postn suppressed swelling and fibrosis. In patients with atopic dermatitis, the level of POSTN expression in the dermis correlated with disease severity. Next steps include developing a neutralizing antibody against POSTN.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Masuoka, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online June 11, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI58978 Contact: Kenji Izuhara, Saga Medical School, Saga, Japan e-mail: kizuhara@cc.saga-u.ac.jp
<i>SciBX</i> 5(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.658 Published online June 21, 2012				