This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation; shock/ trauma	MAP kinase- activated protein kinase 2 (MAPKAPK2; MK2); tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest a class of MK2 inhibitors could help treat septic shock and other inflammatory disorders. Library screening, chemical synthesis and <i>in vitro</i> testing of pyrazolo[1,5- <i>a</i>]pyrimidine analogs identified three lead compounds as selective, nanomolar inhibitors of MK2. In a mouse model of lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced septic shock, one lead compound decreased proinflammatory serum Tnf- α levels compared with vehicle. Results of undisclosed ongoing studies by Teijin Pharma Ltd. and Galapagos N.V.'s BioFocus plc unit will be reported in a forthcoming publication. MMI-0100, an MK2 inhibitor from Moerae Matrix Inc. and MicroDose Therapeutx Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat inflammation and pulmonary fibrosis.	Patented by Teijin Pharma; unavailable for licensing	Kosugi, T. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i> ; published online July 2, 2012; doi:10.1021/jm300411k Contact: Gen Unoki, Teijin Pharma Ltd., Tokyo, Japan e-mail: g.unoki@teijin.co.jp Contact: Dale Robert Mitchell, GlaxoSmithKline Medicines Research Centre, Stevenage, U.K. e-mail: dale.mitchell@glpg.com
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