This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Pulmonary disease				
Cystic fibrosis (CF)	Diacylglycerol kinase- α (DGKI); epithelial sodium channel (ENaC)	<i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies suggest DGKI inhibition could help treat CF. An RNAi screen on airway epithelial cells identified DGKI and ciliary neurotrophic factor receptor as activators of ENaC, which is upregulated in CF. In human airway cells and <i>ex vivo</i> mouse tracheas, pharmacological inhibition of DGKI decreased ENaC levels and activity compared with no inhibition. In human airway epithelial cells from patients with CF, inhibition of DGKI decreased both ENaC activity to levels seen in healthy cells and fluid absorption compared with no inhibition. Next steps could include testing DGKI inhibition in animal models of CF. Parion Sciences Inc. has the ENaC inhibitor P-552 in Phase II testing to treat CF and xerostomia.	Patent application filed; available for exclusive licensing	Almaça, J. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online Sept. 12, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.08.045 Contact: Margarida D. Amaral, University of Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal e-mail: mdamaral@fc.ul.pt
SciBX 6(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1103 Published online Oct. 10, 2013				