This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Allergy	IgE	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest inhibiting weak affinity allergen-IgE interactions could help prevent allergies. In a rat cell culture model, tetraivalent allergens were shown to bind IgE and induce mast cell degranulation, an initial step in triggering allergic reactions. A bivalent inhibitor that targets both the antigen- and nucleotide-binding sites on IgE inhibited mast cell degranulation induced by a tetraivalent allergen, whereas inhibitors that only target one of the two sites did not. In a mouse model of allergy, the bivalent inhibitor decreased tetraivalent allergen-induced ear swelling compared with no treatment. Next steps could include testing the bivalent inhibitor in additional models of allergy.</p> <p>SciBX 6(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1231 Published online Nov. 7, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Handlogten, M.W. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Oct. 6, 2013; doi:10.1038/nchembio.1358 Contact: Basar Bilgicer, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. e-mail: bbilgicer@nd.edu</p>