This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune disease	Protein kinase C θ (PRKCQ)	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies identified pyrazolo-[3,4-<i>b</i>]pyridine-based PRKCQ inhibitors that could help treat autoimmune diseases. <i>In vitro</i>, the lead compound inhibited PRKCQ with an IC₅₀ value of 0.08 nM and 75-fold selectivity over related protein kinase C (PKC) isoforms. In mice, the lead compound decreased serum levels of the proinflammatory cytokine Il-2 compared with vehicle. Next steps include testing the class of inhibitors in models of autoimmune disease and evaluating their toxicity.</p> <p>SciBX 6(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.209 Published online March 7, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Jimenez, J.-M. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 11, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm301465a</p> <p>Contact: Juan-Miguel Jimenez, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Oxfordshire, U.K. e-mail: juan-miguel_jimenez@vrtx.com</p>