This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Pneumonia	IL-1 β ; IL-18; NLR family CARD domain containing 4 (NLRC4); caspase-1 (CASP1)	Mouse studies suggest inhibiting inflammasome activation could help treat <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> pneumonia. In mice infected with <i>P. aeruginosa</i>, knockout of inflammasome activation and signaling components, including Nlrc4, Casp1, Il-1β or Il-18, led to increased bacterial clearance from the airways and decreased tissue damage compared with no knockout. Next steps include testing available inhibitors of inflammasome signaling in patients with pneumonia. At least seven companies have inhibitors or antibodies targeting IL-1β in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed for various indications. GlaxoSmithKline plc's 1070806, an mAb against IL-18, is in Phase I testing for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and diabetes. Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc's VX-765, a CASP1 inhibitor, is in Phase II testing to treat epilepsy. SciBX 6(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.269 Published online March 21, 2013	Patent status not applicable; unavailable for licensing	Cohen, T.S. & Prince, A.S. <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online March 8, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI66142 Contact: Alice Prince, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: asp7@columbia.edu