This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	Lactadherin (MFGE8; HMFG)	<p>Mouse studies suggest increasing MFGE8 levels could help treat asthma. In two mouse models of allergen-induced asthma, <i>Mfge8</i> knockout increased asthma-associated airway hyperresponsiveness compared with no knockout. Tracheal rings from <i>Mfge8</i> knockout mice showed greater sensitivity to cytokines that cause airway hyperresponsiveness than rings from wild-type mice. In tracheal rings from humans and <i>Mfge8</i> knockout mice, recombinant MFGE8 prevented the cytokine-induced muscle contractions. Next steps include optimizing the recombinant protein and testing it in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 6(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.59 Published online Jan. 24, 2013</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Kudo, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 26, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1216673110 Contact: Kamran Atabai, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: kamran.atabai@ucsf.edu</p>