This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Autoimmune disease; inflammation	Tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α)	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> culture studies identified a small molecule TNF-α inhibitor that could be useful for treating autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. In a murine cell line, the small molecule suppressed TNF-α-induced cell death and expression of proinflammatory cytokines with potency comparable to that of a neutralizing mAb against TNF-α. <i>In vitro</i> assays showed that the small molecule bound directly to human TNF-α with high affinity. In a mouse model of hepatitis, the small molecule decreased liver inflammation and increased survival compared with vehicle. Next steps could include developing optimized derivatives of the identified TNF-α inhibitor and evaluating them in additional models of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 7(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.436 Published online April 17, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ma, L. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online March 14, 2014; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.521708</p> <p>Contact: Jiaxi Zhou, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Tianjin, China e-mail: zhoujx@ihcams.ac.cn</p>