This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Itch	Endothelin 1 (EDN1; ET1); endothelin A receptor; endothelin converting enzyme 1 (ECE1)	Mouse and human studies suggest inhibiting endothelin A receptor could help treat itch. In skin samples from mice with pruritic chronic dermatitis and patients with the pruritic skin disorder prurigo nodularis, endothelin A receptor, ET1 and ECE1 were expressed and co-localized in peripheral nerves, suggesting the endothelin A signaling pathway is involved in itch. In a mouse model of chronic itch, an endothelin A receptor inhibitor decreased scratching behavior and chronic dermatitis compared with no treatment. Next steps include further investigating the role of the ET1 and endothelin A receptor pathway in models of histamine-independent itch. SciBX 7(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.709 Published online June 19, 2014	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Kido-Nakahara, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 8, 2014; doi:10.1172/JCI67323 Contact: Martin Steinhoff, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland e-mail: martin.steinhoff@ucd.ie