

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammatory diseases	Cyclooxygenase (COX); lipoxygenase (LOX)	<p>A study in mice identified thiazolidinones that inhibit both LOX and COX-1 and could potentially treat inflammation without the prothrombotic side effects of conventional COX inhibitors. Eight of the compounds lowered anti-inflammatory activity by up to 72.7% in carageenin-induced rat paw edema models compared with untreated animals. Next steps include optimization of dual COX and LOX inhibitors.</p> <p>Merckle GmbH has completed Phase III testing of licofelone, a COX-2 and 5-LOX inhibitor, to treat osteoarthritis.</p> <p>No fewer than 27 companies have COX inhibitors and at least 5 companies have LOX inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed for various inflammatory indications.</p>	Compounds not patented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Geronikaki, A. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 27, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm701496h</p> <p>Contact: Alexey A. Lagunin, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow, Russia e-mail: alexey.lagunin@ibmc.msk.ru</p>