

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Allergy; asthma	Indoleamine-pyrrole 2,3-dioxygenase (INDO; IDO)	<p>A study in mice suggests that antagonizing airway IDO could help treat allergies and asthma. In an ovalbumin-triggered mouse model of chronic airway inflammation, IDO knockout significantly lowered levels of IgE and multiple inflammatory cytokines compared with levels in wild-type mice ($p < 0.05$). Lung tissue from IDO knockout mice had significantly less mucus blockage than that seen in tissue from wild-type mice ($p < 0.05$). IDO knockdown did not impair induction of airway immune tolerance. Further studies include investigating the role of IDO in dendritic cell maturation and migration to draining lymph nodes.</p> <p>NewLink Genetics Corp. has IDO inhibitors in preclinical development for cancer indications.</p>	Research not yet patented; currently unavailable for licensing	<p>Xu, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 21, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0708809105</p> <p>Contact: Anuradha Ray, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: raya@pitt.edu</p>