This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Vascular inflammation	Rho-associated kinase 1 (ROCK1); ROCK2	A study in mice suggests that antagonizing ROCK1 could be useful for treating vascular inflammatory diseases. In ROCK heterozygous knockout mice with tied-off carotid arteries, ROCK1 deficiency led to significantly less formation of vascular scar tissue than was seen in both ROCK2 knockout and wild-type mice ($p<0.05$). ROCK1 knockout mice also had less leukocyte and macrophage recruitment to the vasculature than did wild-type mice. Next steps include investigating the mechanism by which *Rock1* regulates leukocyte and macrophage function. SLx-2119, a ROCK2 inhibitor from Surface Logix Inc., is in preclinical development for cancer.	Patented; available for licensing through Corporate Sponsored Research and Licensing, Brigham and Women's Hospital	Noma, K. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online April 15, 2008; doi:10.1172.jci29226 **Contact:** James Liao, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jliao@rics.bwh.harvard.edu