

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); colitis	Norepinephrine transporter protein	A study in mice suggests that tricyclic antidepressants could be useful for treating IBD associated with depression. In two mouse models of depression-induced colitis, treatment with the antidepressant desmethylimipramine significantly lowered intestinal inflammation compared with that in untreated controls ($p < 0.05$). These anti-inflammatory effects were mediated by vagal nerve stimulation as no improvement occurred in mice that had undergone a vagotomy. Next steps include investigating the anti-inflammatory activity of other classes of antidepressant drugs, including selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs).	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Ghia, J.-E. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online May 1, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI32849 Contact: Stephen M. Collins, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada e-mail: scollins@mcmaster.ca