This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma; arthritis	Phospholipase A_2 (PLA_2); human group X secreted PLA_2 (hGX $sPLA_2$); mouse group X secreted PLA_2 (mGX $sPLA_2$)	An *in vitro* study identified indoles, benzoindoles and indolizines derived from the secreted PLA_2 inhibitor LY315920 that may be useful in treating asthma- and arthritis-associated inflammation. Fluorometric screening assays showed that several compounds had high affinity and specificity for mGX $sPLA_2$ and hGX $sPLA_2$ secreted enzyme, whereas other compounds showed high affinity against a broad class of secreted PLA_2s. Next steps include testing the therapeutic candidates in animal models of inflammation. A-001 (formerly LY315920 and S-5920), a PLA_2 inhibitor that Anthera Pharmaceuticals Inc. in-licensed from Eli Lilly and Co. and Shionogi & Co. Ltd., is in a Phase II trial to prevent acute chest syndrome in sickle cell disease patients. MRX4, an inhaled multifunctional anti-inflammatory drug (MFAID) from Morria Biopharmaceuticals plc that inhibits PLA_2, is in Phase II testing for allergies.	Derivatives are patented by Eli Lilly; unavailable for licensing	Oslund, R.C. *et al. J. Med. Chem.*; published online July 8, 2008; doi:10.1021/jm800422v **Contact:** Michael H. Gelb, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: gelb@chem.washington.edu