

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Sepsis; acute lung injury; myocardial infarction (MI)	Plasminogen activator inhibitor 1 (PAI-1) (SERPINE1)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that antagonizing PAI-1 on postapoptotic cells could help treat sepsis, acute lung injury, MI and other inflammatory diseases. Elevated levels of PAI-1 bound to postapoptotic neutrophils and other cells may slow or prevent clearance of these cells by macrophages and thus contribute to inflammation. In cell culture, neutrophils from PAI-1 knockout mice underwent increased uptake by macrophages compared with neutrophils from wild-type mice. However, preincubation of these neutrophils with PAI-1 diminished uptake by macrophages, suggesting that PAI-1 can block phagocytosis of dying cells. Next steps include investigating clearance of postapoptotic neutrophils and identifying the receptors PAI-1 interacts with on the surface of postapoptotic cells.</p>	Provisional patent application filed; available for licensing through the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Research Foundation	<p>Park, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 28, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0801394105</p> <p>Contact: Edward Abraham, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala. e-mail: eabraham@uab.edu</p>