

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Neurology; inflammation	Tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α); IL-1 β ; angiotensin 2 (ng2)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that antagonizing Ang2 in the vasculature could help treat neuroinflammatory disorders. Tissue samples from mice challenged with bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS) showed greater infiltration of proinflammatory leukocytes into the cerebral cortex than tissue from mice that received saline. Leukocyte infiltration was mediated by Ang2 and proinflammatory cytokines TNF-α and IL-1β. In the same mice, an anti-Ang2 peptide-Fc fusion protein lowered recruitment of leukocytes to the cerebral vasculature compared with that seen in mice receiving saline control. Next steps include testing the anti-Ang2 peptide-Fc fusion protein in clinical trials for neuroinflammatory conditions.</p> <p>Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Inc. has a small interfering RNA targeting Ang2 in preclinical testing to treat acute lung injury.</p> <p>CovX Pharmaceuticals Inc. has CVX-060, an Ang2 antagonist, in preclinical testing to treat solid tumors. In 2007, Pfizer Inc. acquired CovX for undisclosed terms.</p> <p>SciBX 1(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.933 Published online Oct. 23, 2008</p>	Amgen Inc. has patented the anti-Ang2 compound; licensing status unavailable	<p>Remus, J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Oct. 8, 2008; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3510-08.2008</p> <p>Contact: Luc Vallières, Laval University Hospital Research Center, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada e-mail: luc.vallieres@crchul.ulaval.ca</p>