

### This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Inflammation</b>				
Allergy; asthma	Inhibin, $\beta$ A (INHBA; activin A)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that activin A could be useful for treating allergen-induced asthma. In a mouse model of allergic airway inflammation, a neutralizing antibody against activin A administered prior to allergen challenge worsened asthmatic symptoms compared with allergen alone. Conversely, systemic infusion of recombinant activin A prior to allergen challenge led to reduced allergen-induced asthmatic symptoms compared with control saline infusion. Next steps include studying the effects of activin A on additional cell types in animal models of allergy and autoimmune diseases.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1220</b> Published online Aug. 13, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Semitekolou, M. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online July 20, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20082603 <b>Contact:</b> Georgina Xanthou, Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, Athens, Greece e-mail: <a href="mailto:gxanthou@bioacademy.gr">gxanthou@bioacademy.gr</a></p>