

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Renal disease				
Renal damage	Potassium channel KCa3.1 (KCNN4)	<p>Studies in rodents suggest that inhibiting KCNN4 could help treat renal fibrosis. In a mouse model of renal fibrosis, kidneys from <i>Kcnn4</i> knockouts showed less fibrosis and tissue damage than kidneys from wild-type mice. In mouse and rat models of renal fibrosis, <i>Kcnn4</i> inhibitors were safe and reduced fibrosis and kidney damage compared with vehicle. Future studies could include determining whether KCNN4 plays a role in other fibrotic disorders. Icagen Inc.'s KCNN4 inhibitor Senicapoc (ICA-17043) is in Phase II testing to treat exercise-induced asthma.</p> <p>SciBX 2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1252 Published online Aug. 20, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Grgic, I. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 10, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0903458106</p> <p>Contact: Joachim Hoyer, Philipps University, Marburg, Germany e-mail: hoyer@med.uni-marburg.de</p>