This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation; inflammatory diseases; shock/ trauma	Aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that agonizing AHR could help treat inflammation. In <i>Ahr</i>-deficient mice, lipopolysaccharide (LPS) injection led to shock and 100% mortality, whereas LPS-treated wild-type controls had 100% survival. In the knockout mice, LPS increased levels of the proinflammatory cytokines Il-6 and tumor necrosis factor-α (Tnf-α). Next steps include identifying both the role of <i>Ahr</i> in each immune cell population and the relationship between <i>Ahr</i> and several inflammatory diseases by using immune cell-specific <i>Ahr</i> conditional knockout mice.</p> <p>SciBX 2(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1317 Published online Sept. 3, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Kimura, A. <i>et al. J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 24, 2009; doi:10.1084/jem.20090560</p> <p>Contact: Tadimitsu Kishimoto, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan e-mail: kishimot@imed3.med.osaka-u.ac.jp</p>