This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Inflammation	Hepcidin antimicrobial peptide (HAMP); toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that inhibiting HAMP could help reduce inflammation. HAMP is a secreted hepatocyte peptide that plays a role in iron homeostasis. In mouse models of infectious enterocolitis and chronic colitis, a HAMP inhibitor reduced the inflammatory response and severity of colitis compared with vehicle. In mouse macrophages, inflammatory signaling mediated by TLR4 was disrupted compared with that in control cells. Next steps could include further studies of the interaction between iron metabolism and TLR4-activated inflammatory responses. SciBX 2(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1510 Published online Oct. 15, 2009	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Wang, L. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Oct. 5, 2009; doi:10.1172/JCI39939 Contact: Bobby J. Cherayil, Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: cherayil@helix.mgh.harvard.edu