

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Gastrointestinal disease				
Colitis	Free fatty acid receptor 2 (GPR43; FFAR2)	Studies in mice suggest that GPR43 agonists could help treat colitis. GPR43 binds short-chain fatty acids derived from commensal bacteria in the gut. In mouse models of colitis, the lack of commensal bacteria or <i>Gpr43</i> deficiency led to greater inflammation than that in wild-type controls. Ongoing work is investigating the role of signaling between GPR43 and short-chain fatty acids in diabetes and in immune responses to infectious diseases.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Maslowski, K. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Oct. 28, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08530 Contact: Charles R. Mackay, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia e-mail: charles.mackay@med.monash.edu.au
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