

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Inflammation				
Asthma	Inducible T cell kinase (ITK); IL-17	<p>Studies in cell culture and mice suggest that antagonizing ITK could help treat allergic asthma. In response to stimulation, cultured CD4⁺ cells from <i>itk</i> knockout mice produced lower levels of proinflammatory IL-17 subtype IL-17A than wild-type cells. In a mouse model of allergic asthma, <i>itk</i> knockout led to lower IL-17A levels and less airway constriction after allergen challenge than were seen in wild-type controls. Next steps involve testing small molecule <i>itk</i> inhibitors in animal models of asthma and multiple sclerosis (MS), another IL-17A-linked disease.</p> <p>SciBX 2(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1606 Published online Nov. 5, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Gomez-Rodriguez, J. <i>et al. Immunity</i>; published online Oct. 16, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.immuni.2009.07.009</p> <p>Contact: Pamela L. Schwartzberg, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: pams@mail.nih.gov</p>